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NEW WCC EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE  
TO MEET MARCH 22-28

Geneva (EPS) - Five women and two young people have been elected to the Executive Committee of the World Council of Churches, which will hold its first meeting in Geneva on March 22-28. They were chosen by the new WCC Central Committee during an all-day session in Nairobi immediately following the Fifth Assembly.

Named to the Executive Committee were the following:

- Archbishop Edward W. Scott, 56, Toronto, Canada, Anglican (moderator);
- Archbishop Karekin Sarkissian, 43, New York, Armenian Apostolic Church (vice-moderator);
- Ms. Jean Skuse, 43, Sydney, Australia, Methodist (vice-moderator);
- Bishop Antonie Plamadeala, 49, Bucharest, Romania, Romanian Orthodox;
- Rev. André Appel, 54, Strasbourg, France, Lutheran;
- Prof. Anwar M. Barkat, 41, Lahore, Pakistan, Church of Pakistan (United);
- Mr. Bena-Silu, 29, Kinshasa, Zaire, Kimbanguist Church;
- Metropolitan Chrysostomos, 54, Istanbul, Turkey, Ecumenical Patriarchate of Constantinople;
- Rev. John Gatu, 50, Nairobi, Kenya, Presbyterian Church of East Africa;
- Metropolitan Paulos Gregorios, 53, Kottayam, India, Orthodox Syrian Church;
- Bishop Johannes Hempel, 46, Dresden, German Democratic Republic, Lutheran;
- Bishop Hans J. Harms, 61, Oldenburg, Federal Republic of Germany, Lutheran;
- Archimandrite Kirill (Gundyaev), 29, Moscow, Russian Orthodox;
- Bishop Robert Marshall, 57, New York, Lutheran;
- Rev. J. Oscar McCloud, 39, New York, United Presbyterian;
- Dr. Won-Yong Kang, 58, Seoul, Korea, Presbyterian Church in Republic of Korea;
- Dr. Jacques Rossel, 60, Basel, Switzerland, Reformed;
- Ms. Pauline Webb, 48, London, Methodist;
- Mrs. Dorinda Sampath, 48, Mt. Lambert, Trinidad, Presbyterian.

Also attending the March meeting will be the six new WCC presidents: Ms. Annie Jiagge, Rev. J. Miguez-Bonino, Metropolitan Nikodim, Dr. T.B. Simatupang, Archbishop Olof Sundby and Ms. Cynthia Wedel. Dr. W.A. Visser 't Hooft continues as honorary president.

Major agenda items for the first meeting will be approval of the council's 1976 general budget, interim action on the Ecumenical Institute, consideration of priorities for future programmes and any other administrative matters on which

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the Geneva staff needs guidance.

The first meeting of the 130 member Central Committee will take place August 10-18, according to a decision taken in Nairobi. It too will be in Geneva.

Other actions taken by the new Central Committee on December 11 included a resolution expressing profound regret that four South Korean churchmen scheduled to attend the Fifth Assembly had not received exit permits from their government. Efforts made by WCC leaders had failed to win permission for the attendance of Ahn Byung Moo, Moon Dong Whan, Kim Kwan Suk and Moon Kyu Kang.

The committee said this constituted "an infringement of the basic human and religious rights of the churches and their members freely to travel and to share in the fellowship of the world Christian community". It asked member churches to "uphold the rights of Christians in Korea to witness to a just society in responsible freedom".

WCC General Secretary Philip Potter was asked to begin consultation with churches in countries which signed the Helsinki Declaration to learn the status of religious liberty in all these countries. A short first report is expected at the committee's next meeting.

The committee also named "core groups" for the various WCC units and sub-units plus a review committee to continue the process of setting programme priorities, taking into account the WCC's grave financial crisis.

EPS

#### CARDINAL WILLEBRANDS' ELECTION FAILED

Rome (EPS) - The selection of Jan Cardinal Willebrands, 66, as archbishop of Utrecht and primate of the Roman Catholic Church in the Netherlands has brought expressions of joy from several Protestant leaders who have known him as the leading Vatican spokesman for ecumenical cooperation.

Dr. Philip A. Potter, general secretary of the World Council of Churches, in a cable to Cardinal Willebrands welcomed the fact that he would continue as president of the Vatican Secretariat for Promoting Christian Unity.

Dr. Albert van den Heuvel, general secretary of the largest Protestant church in the Netherlands (Netherlands Reformed), commented, "It is good to have an archbishop who is an ecumenical specialist".

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In 1960 Pope John XXIII named Jan Willebrands secretary of the newly formed Secretariat for Christian Unity headed by Cardinal Bea. He assisted in the preparation of documents on ecumenism, religious liberty and non-Christian religions for the Second Vatican Council. On April 12, 1969, he became president of the secretariat and also cardinal. In continuing to hold this post while heading a national church he follows a pattern set by Cardinal Koenig of Vienna who is president of the Secretariat for Non-believers and Cardinal Roy of Quebec who presides over the Pontifical Commission Justice and Peace.

EPS

3000 EUROPEAN YOUTH DRAWN  
TO LAUSANNE MISSION CONFERENCE

Lausanne (EPS) - Approximately 3000 young people from 21 countries principally in Europe gained a deep awareness of the needs of today's world and vowed to respond to them during "Mission 76", held here December 27 to January 1. The conference was organized by the European Association of Student Missionaries and four other conservative evangelical organizations.

The first such gathering held on the continent, the congress was designed to inspire church youth to evangelize the world, to create a missionary preoccupation in the bosom of the churches and to spur youth to seek God's plan for their lives.

A series of reports on the situation in the five continents and the groups at work there informed participants of the needs and opportunities for evangelization. Young people had a chance to talk with those in charge of the 125 displays mounted by various mission and Bible societies as well as those doing radio evangelism.

"Rarely have these professionals had such profound and fruitful encounters as those during Mission 76", said Eric Gay, conference director.

A panel of seven people from the different continents, moderated by the Rev. Paul Feuter of the United Bible Societies, made the following points: only 5% of mission personnel are at work in non-Christian areas; the greatest efforts are concentrated in regions where Christianity is already known. The sending of missionaries is still necessary under certain conditions, namely that those sent are familiar with the culture and socio-political climate in which they will work, that they be well trained and their coming has the approval of churches and local groups.

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One panelist responded to the question 'are missionaries needed?' by saying: "Yes, but not those who treat us with condescension. They must be aware of our circumstances and understand us."

The seriousness of the young people, all attending in an individual capacity, was evident more than once. Nearly 1000 indicated publicly their intention to witness to the Gospel in their own situation. Two collections to finance Mission 76 (which had not sought any subsidy from the churches) brought in SwF. 145,000 for Mission activities throughout the world.

EPS

THAI INTER-FAITH COMMITTEE  
TO SPUR NATIONAL UNITY

Bangkok, Thailand (EPS) - Increased concern for Thailand's national security and an explosive Muslim-Buddhist confrontation in the south have prompted a new spirit of sharing among Protestant, Roman Catholic, Buddhist and Muslim groups in Thailand.

At the invitation of the religious affairs section of the government Ministry of Education, representatives of the various religious groups recently formed a new organization to deal with the growing sense of national and cultural crisis.

This is the first time such groups have recognized common goals and interests.

The new Coordinating Committee of Religious Organizations of Thailand has issued an appeal to all religious believers putting its case as follows:

"The Thais are religious people: free, peaceful and sovereign. Our problems have been solved (in the past) in a Thai and peaceful manner. But the present situation is rapidly deteriorating. If left unchecked, crisis and tragedy may befall us".

Out of a deep concern for this situation the committee appealed:

- "to all religious adherents that they may be mindful of the national situation;
- to all citizens that they may refrain from any actions that endanger our nation and people;
- to all politicians, civil servants, mass media, business and teachers that they may give of themselves for the sake of national and common good".

Calling for peace and freedom for all people, the committee concludes: "May the power and authority of each and every sacred founder (Jesus Christ, the Buddha, the Prophet Mohammed) protect Thailand from any threats to its autonomy and sovereignty...may the Thai people grow in the merit of sacrifice for the sake of each and all of us".

In addition to assumed threats from other Indochina countries, Thailand has a full-fledged guerilla movement controlling portions of the northern and central countryside. The Pattani Liberation Front in the south is reported to have



TEAR GAS FAILS TO HALT  
LUTHERAN CHURCH UNION

Geneva (EPS) - If the perpetrators of the December 17 tear-gas acid attack on a merger meeting of four black South Africa Lutheran churches had intended to create disunity and disruption, they achieved the opposite result, Lutheran World Federation General Secretary Carl H. Mau, Jr., said here. "The reaction was a feeling of great solidarity and determination to go forward," he reported.

Dr. Mau was at the speaker's table at the Rustenberg, South Africa, merger meeting when two glass containers smashed through a window behind him. The gathering of about 90 did not panic, the LWF official said, but "went to the floor almost simultaneously, many under tables anticipating a continued attack, and then moved out of the hall quickly."

Splattering acid burned many of the participants - 14 received hospital treatment, six of them with burns around the eyes. Three were kept in the hospital for treatment.

Dr. Mau was not injured. Mrs. Mau, a nurse, quickly recognized the acid burns and rushed several to a nearby parsonage to bathe their faces.

"It took the police a while to arrive," Dr. Mau said, "and they seemed quite helpless at first." He disagreed with their initial impression that the attack was simply a malicious prank. "I say somebody or some group was definitely trying to intimidate the meeting and disrupt the unity process," he commented. "With many conservatives in South Africa today, the process toward greater black unity in any form is not popular."

No immediate arrests were made. Dr. Mau said some persons outside the assembly hall reported seeing a green, unlicensed car speeding away, almost hitting a woman of the neighborhood.

Within 40 minutes of the attack, the meeting resumed in the adjacent church building - with a spontaneous singing of "A Mighty Fortress is Our God."

The week-long meeting formalized the union of four black regional churches into the new Evangelical Lutheran Church in Southern Africa. Made up of the former South-Eastern, Transvaal, Tswana and Cape-Orange regions, the church has a total membership of some 460,000. Bishop P.B. Mhlungu of the South-Eastern region was elected presiding bishop. Bishop D.W. Giesekke of the Transvaal, a white churchman, was named deputy presiding bishop.

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Dr. Mau noted that the election of the white churchman was a clear expression of the new black church's determination to retain interracial contacts. One white, Scandinavian congregation also is related to the new South-East diocese.

In addition to ratifying a constitution, the new church also immediately voted overwhelmingly to join the South Africa Council of Churches, World Council of Churches, All Africa Conference of Churches, Lutheran World Federation and the Federation of Evangelical Lutheran Churches in Southern Africa.

EPS

FEDERAL SEMINARY MOVES AGAIN

Umtata, South Africa (EPS) - The Federal Theological Seminary, which was forced to move here after its quarters at Alice were expropriated by the South African Government, has announced it is again moving, this time to the Edendale Ecumenical Lay Training Centre in Pietermaritzburg. Here again the relocation can only be temporary.

A check for US\$ 5,000 has been received from the United Church Board for World Ministries (USA) and other American churches have written the South African embassy in Washington protesting the expropriation.

According to the Rev. Gerald Hawkes, a seminary official, a claim is to be filed seeking full financial compensation for the Alice property and for "loss and inconvenience" as provided by law.

The United Congregational Church at its recent assembly in Cape Town supported a recommendation that the seminary should be fully united, nonracial and every effort be made to involve more churches in training their ministers at the seminary. At present it has the backing of Anglican, Congregational, Methodist and Presbyterian churches.

EPS

MOVEMENT OF FOOD IN BEIRUT  
LIMITED TO CEASEFIRE PERIODS

Geneva (EPS) - Constantly shifting frontlines in embattled Beirut have made the distribution of food through relief agencies uncertain, adding further hardship to the dangers facing remaining residents in the Lebanese capital.

The Commission on Inter-Church Aid, Refugee and World Service (CICARWS) of the World Council of Churches, working through the Middle East Council of Churches, has so far made \$53,000 available for the purchase and distribution of food to some seven thousand families. CICARWS raised \$100,000 for Lebanon late last year. Movement of the food from storage to distribution points is handicapped by shifting frontlines and is limited to periods when a cease fire is observed. This may be as little as one day a week.

While fresh food like vegetables and meat cannot be brought into the city, non-perishable staples are generally in good supply. CICARWS funds have been used to purchase and distribute rice, sugar, cracked wheat, beans, lentils, peas, tomato paste, cheese and margarine. Families requiring critical assistance in the form of food are mostly Shiite Muslims, but assistance is also needed by families of mixed origin, such as Kurdish, Bedouin and Christian Arabs inhabiting Beirut's slum areas.

At least half of the population of Beirut has left the city. Those remaining behind belong to the poorer strata of society who cannot pay for moving to the country or to other nations. A returning traveller reporting to CICARWS said the University of Beirut reopened in January on a trial basis for two weeks when the decision to remain in session for the entire term will be made. Some 2,150 students have registered of a possible 3,000. Lebanese schools in the capital are generally closed. However, a community school near the university is open, but of 300 students only 130 are able to attend classes daily. Banks have not reopened and economic life in the city and the nation is at a standstill.

CICARWS shipments, all by air, include \$47,000 worth of food and blankets from the German churches and \$10,000 worth from Danish Inter-Church Aid. Church aid organizations in both countries have balances on hand for further shipments. Danish Inter-Church Aid is acting as agent for CICARWS in arranging air shipments to Lebanon.

EPS

ORTHODOX NOW FEEL FULL MEMBERS  
OF WORLD COUNCIL, MELITON SAYS

Geneva (EPS) - The various Orthodox churches belonging to the World Council of Churches will evaluate the progress of the ecumenical movement and ways they can contribute to it at a pan-Orthodox conference to be held in 1976. This was disclosed by Metropolitan Meliton of Chalcedon in an interview with Ecumenical Press Service this week.

During the Nairobi Assembly the metropolitan made this suggestion to the heads of the Orthodox delegations. "They responded very favorably but we have not yet raised the question officially", he told EPS.

According to Meliton, who is outgoing vice-moderator of the WCC Central Committee, "the Fifth Assembly was a good one, better than Uppsala". He observed a clear "progress in verticalism" due to the active participation of Orthodox and Roman Catholics in the debates.

The Dean of the Holy Synod of the Ecumenical Patriarchate of Constantinople said he was impressed by the fact that "the Assembly gave a positive welcome to Orthodox contributions" and they seemed to be understood by other churches.

"Prior to Nairobi", he said, "the Orthodox felt somewhat isolated within the WCC. But at the Fifth Assembly I observed they felt they were now a vital part of the fellowship". But, he observed, the Orthodox will continue to give priority to verticalism while taking account of the great problems of today's world. This, he said, means giving priority to a living confession of the faith and to an advance towards the goal of the ecumenical movement - the unity of the churches.

Questioned about his recent meeting with Pope Paul VI, Meliton underlined that the close relationship between the Roman Catholic Church and the Orthodox Church is "a theological and ecclesial reality...it is not a question to be discussed but a concrete reality".

Asked what will be the task of the new Pan-Orthodox Commission for Dialogue with Rome, Meliton said the line was clear and the Pope agreed: "We will advance towards unity without sacrificing anything of truth. However, we must not expect spectacular decisions".

Responding to the question "can we envisage full communion between Rome and Constantinople in the near future?" the head of the Holy Synod said: "For us time is not all that important. What matters is that we allow room for the action of the Holy Spirit".

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WCC ASSEMBLY GAVE FRESH IMPETUS  
TO CHRISTIAN UNITY WEEK

Geneva (EPS) - The Week of Prayer for Christian Unity, which is observed in many countries from January 18 to 25, offers Christians and churches their first opportunity to put into practice some practical suggestions made by the Fifth Assembly of the World Council of Churches.

In an article scheduled for publication in the next issue of One World, due to appear in early February, the Rev. René Beaupère, a French Dominican, recalls that Nairobi provided a new description of the unity which should be the aim of the ecumenical movement. It spoke of the Church as a "reconciling community of local churches, themselves authentically united". To help the churches prepare for this reconciling community, "we have, very concretely, to make common efforts to confess Christian faith together", he says. "We also have to make deeper exchanges of experiences, personnel, resources: by mutual intercession, reciprocal visits, solidarity in suffering and supporting interconfessional groups and in particular mixed marriages".

Terming the Nairobi document on unity "really good", Father Beaupère writes: "It will bear fruit only if the churches everywhere in the world take it upon themselves to put into practice the suggestions it contains". And he concludes, "It should not remain a dead text".

The Week of Prayer, now in its 68th year, can perhaps aid in bringing the Roman Catholic and Protestant churches together. Delegates at Nairobi reiterated their desire for rapprochement in resolution receiving unanimous approval which said: "This Assembly looks forward eagerly to the day when it will be possible for the Roman Catholic Church to become a member of the WCC".

In the same issue of One World Sister Janice McLaughlin, an American Maryknoll, examines the possibilities of concrete actions towards church unity. Until the Roman Catholic Church becomes a member, she writes, "the way ahead seems to be through concrete action at the local level where already 19 national Christian councils and one regional council have Catholic membership".

The Rev. Paul A. Crow Jr., ecumenical officer of the Christian Church (USA), was particularly grateful for the Assembly's emphasis on the goal of "conciliar fellowship" in which the churches in each place would share together a full life in Christ.

"Such a unity would require that they be able to pray for each other, to recognize each other as belonging to the same Church of Christ, to receive the same baptism and share the same Eucharist, to recognize each other's members and ministries and to gather together for a common meeting from time to time. They would be one in their proclamation of the Gospel and in service to the world. Churches able to do this would be manifesting visibly the unity which God wills for and gives to all humankind", Crow states.

The theme of this year's Week of Prayer is "We shall be like Him". During the week Christians of many different communions will gather to pray, rejoice and express together their common faith. It is conceived as a "permanent dialogue of spirituality" expressing what should happen during the whole year.

CHURCH ACTION SOUGHT ON BAPTISM,  
EUCCHARIST, MINISTRY ACCORDS

Geneva (EPS) - One of the first resolutions from the Fifth WCC Assembly in Nairobi to be sent to the 286 member churches for action concerns agreements on baptism, the Eucharist and ministry.

On the first day of Christian Unity Week (celebrated in many countries from January 13 to 25) Dr. Philip A. Potter, general secretary of the WCC, forwarded a letter to the churches calling their attention to this specific evidence of unity. He quoted at length a resolution produced by the Section on "What Unity Requires" and subsequently adopted by the assembly.

While it is important to report about the Nairobi Assembly to the congregations, the resolution said, "the essential need is for actions by the churches which strengthen the development of true conciliar fellowship...deliberate steps towards a fuller fellowship with other churches".

The Assembly asked the churches to study the three agreed statements compiled by the WCC Faith and Order Commission and to respond not later than December 31, 1976. In responding churches should not only state whether the statements reflect their own teaching and practice but also indicate ways in which they are prepared to contribute to the common advance towards unity.

The texts are grouped in a booklet titled One Baptism, One Eucharist and a Mutually Recognized Ministry, which has been published in English, French, German, Spanish, Portuguese, Dutch, Swedish, Italian and Greek. It is considered significant that Roman Catholic theologians participated in working out the statements, and the Vatican Secretariat for Promoting Christian Unity has asked that Roman Catholic faculties comment on the texts.

EPS

UK UNITY COMMISSION PROPOSES  
COVENANT, SPECIFIC ACTIONS

London (EPS) - On the eve of the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity the Churches' Unity Commission in Great Britain has challenged the Anglican, Roman Catholic and Free Churches to enter into a covenant to seek new and visible unity.

At the same time it suggested that from a certain date they should agree to the following: unconditional inter-communion; mutual recognition of each other's ordained ministries; and future ordinations according to a new common ordinal. This would incorporate the various episcopal, presbyterial and lay roles for which ordination is presently granted.

The commission, set up in 1974, has asked the churches to give a provisional reply by June and a formal statement of consent by June 1977.

The commission listed 10 propositions on which the churches were asked to give their assent or comments. The one on inter-communion is expected to give the greatest difficulty. The Congregational Federation, represented in the commission, has already issued a dissent alleging among other things that only greater and unnecessary uniformity would be created.

EPS

NAIROBI SHOWED DELEGATES' REALISM,  
COUNCIL'S MATURITY, POTTER SAYS

Geneva (EPS) - The distinguishing mark of the Fifth Assembly of the World Council of Churches was its realism, General Secretary Philip A. Potter said in a preliminary assessment of the Nairobi event made to staff of the Ecumenical Centre last week.

"Delegates realized we were not living in the world of 1968, a time of student revolt and the Prague spring", he said. Those who compared Nairobi to the Uppsala Assembly and found it less exciting clearly lacked a sense of history, according to the general secretary.

Refusing to escape into either religiosity or conservative backlash, Nairobi delegates "walked right up to current issues and were not afraid to deal with them. They were concerned to hold together the Christian faith and the realities of our world". In addition, Potter noted, the Assembly refused to repudiate any WCC positions taken in the past.

Nairobi also marked the end of the "elite, old boys' club of the ecumenical movement and the coming in of the churches, as they are, expressing what they are and not pretending to be otherwise", he said. The six sections directed their action recommendations specifically to the churches, including the local congregations.

Two other positive features of the Assembly singled out for commendation by Dr. Potter were the worship services as occasions for celebration and the small work groups in which all participants examined the Assembly theme, "Jesus Christ frees and unites". Worship was a much more integral part of this assembly than at any other, he said. The opening and closing services combined elements of classical and contemporary worship, solemnity and joyfulness. And many delegates have expressed their appreciation for the small groups as places of genuine encounter where delegates turned towards each other and attitudes were changed.

Generally, the Assembly manifested, Dr. Potter said, a growing desire and willingness on the part of the member churches and their delegates to participate fully in the life and work of the WCC.

"I have never seen so many people clamouring to speak in plenary sessions", he said. However, this increased expectation was frustrated by the complexities of the programme.

"In future we must be courageous enough to do less in order to do better", the general secretary concluded.

Regarding the future work of the Council, the Assembly manifested a "surprising tendency to approve present programmes and suggest new ones", Dr. Potter commented. "Everybody said we should do more but nobody said with what". This was all the more surprising because the delegates had been made fully aware of the grave budgetary difficulties the WCC is facing. The Programme Guidelines Committee, confronted with all these recommendations, was unable to set detailed priorities. Thus a considerable task is referred to the new Central Committee and the staff carries a large responsibility in preparing for these decisions.

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Referring to the general consensus that Nairobi was a "mature assembly, demonstrating the maturity of the ecumenical movement", Dr. Potter concluded: "I hope this does not mean that we no longer have 'fire in our bellies', to borrow a phrase used by the Prophet Jeremiah". Jeremiah, he recalled, went with the Children of Israel into exile in order that he might continue to witness to the living God.

EPS

#### USSR CHURCH AUTHORITIES CLARIFY CASES OF TWO DISMISSED PRIESTS

Geneva (EPS) - The status of two Russian Orthodox priests who were dismissed from their congregations near Moscow was clarified this week by Russian church authorities in response to inquiries from the World Council of Churches' Department of Communication. At the same time, Metropolitan Seraphim of Krutitsky and Kolomna, declared he considers it "unacceptable" that pressure should have been brought on the church by outside persons "in internal questions of our church life" which affect church discipline resting on the "canons, statutes and tradition of our church".

Contrary to news reports the Rev. Dimitri Dudko and the Rev. Gleb Yakunin remain attached to their diocese. They have not been defrocked, and they have merely been separated from the congregations they served, according to the representative of the Moscow Patriarchate in Geneva who transmitted the messages.

Public interest had been aroused in both cases because the recent dismissals were understood to be of a controversial nature, affecting religious liberty in the Soviet Union. Father Yakunin had figured in news reports in 1966 when he and the Rev. Nikolai Aeschlimann sent an open letter to His Holiness Patriarch Aleksiy of Moscow and All Russia (who has since died) criticising the acts of the Council of Bishops in 1961 and the activities and orders of the Supreme Church Authorities. The circumstances surrounding use of this letter led to disciplinary action and Father Yakunin was forbidden to exercise ministerial functions until he would write a letter of repentance. But he may carry out the ordinary duties of a person serving the church in the churches of the Moscow diocese, according to the message from Metropolitan Aleksiy of Tallinn and Estonia, who is in charge of the Moscow Patriarchate's administration. Father Yakunin has carried out these ordinary functions such as serving as a reader since then. His separation from his last post occurred because of the distance involved in working in a parish away from Moscow where he lives, and the inconveniences that means for the parish, the Moscow Patriarchate's office in Geneva explained. The church executive organ felt that the congregation's needs can be met better by someone available on short notice for church functions, such as funerals.

Father Yakunin also was the author of a joint letter with Rev Regelson to the Fifth Assembly of the World Council of Churches in Nairobi last year which became part of intensive discussions on religious life in the Soviet Union among delegates.

The discharge of Father Dudko from the Church of the Martyr Nikita in Kabanova came because he had been requested not to introduce what was considered political arguments in the life of the congregation. When, despite this he continued to do so, he was asked to leave.

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The church's position in Father Dudko's case is outlined in Metropolitan Seraphim's message which is reprinted in full below. The Russian prelate reaffirms that Father Dudko belongs to the clergy of the Moscow Diocese and is now waiting for a new appointment.

Metropolitan Seraphim's statement follows:

Statement by the Metropolitan Seraphim of Krutitsky and Kolomna to the Department of Communication of the World Council of Churches

Moscow, 13th January, 1976

Referring to the enquiry by the Department of Communication of the WCC, concerning a priest of the Moscow Diocese, Dimitri Dudko, I can state the following:

On 23rd September, 1974, the priest Dimitri Dudko was assigned, under an arrangement with the Council of the Church of Nikita the Martyr, in the village of Kabanovo Orekhovo-Zuyevo in the region of Moscow, as second priest among the clergy of that church.

On 21st December, 1975, the executive organ of the Church of Nikita cancelled its contract with the Rev. Dimitri Dudko because he systematically included political matter of an anti-social character in his sermons and talks, containing biased criticism against our government. At the same time he systematically utilized the church premises for special meetings of groups of persons, who came to attend those sermons and talks. Several warnings, which he did not heed, that the contract would be cancelled were given to him by the executive organ.

After the cancellation of the contract, the Rev. Dimitri Dudko did not immediately come to see either me or his archbishop, which he should have done according to church discipline. It was only after a week had elapsed that he sent me a telegramme informing me of what had happened. After a further week had passed I received a letter from him on the same subject, but without signature. It was only on 12th January, 1976, that the Rev. Dimitri Dudko made personal contact with the Moscow archbishop's directorate, and I expect him to visit me after the Feast of Epiphany, according to what he told my secretary.

As he belongs to the clergy of the Moscow Diocese and though at the present moment he is in the provinces waiting for a new appointment, the Rev. Dimitri Dudko cannot be said to belong to the category of so-called parasites and he is not threatened with any legal prosecution, as has been tendentiously stated abroad.

That is the real situation as regards this matter.

At the same time, I must state very definitely that I consider it unacceptable that, in any internal questions of our church life, including those which affect church discipline, resting as they do upon the canons, statutes and tradition of our church, any pressure should have been made by any outside person, in such cases as the defence of the Rev. Dimitri Dudko, with the purpose of furthering their own interests.

Seraphim  
Metropolitan of Krutitsky and Kolomna

EPS

TWO WCC STAFF MEMBERS  
VISIT MOZAMBIQUE

Geneva (EPS) - For the first time in Mozambique's history Church and State are genuinely separate. While this has brought tensions, there is no evidence of persecution of the churches.

This was the conclusion of Dr. Baldwin Sjollema, director of the Programme to Combat Racism of the World Council of Churches, and Dr. Lukas Vischer, director of the Faith and Order Secretariat, who visited Mozambique last month.

In a trip to the northern province of Tete Dr. Sjollema was able to see how grants from the WCC's Special Fund to Combat Racism had been used to provide school books and medical supplies for primary and secondary school pupils. This aid was greatly appreciated, he reported. But there is need for much more. He found 480 boarding pupils at Chipera School existing on a daily diet of beans and the people in the surrounding areas living in great poverty.

The government has mounted an intensive nationwide campaign to improve health and sanitary conditions, he reported, and further ecumenical support would be welcomed. "Such aid will have to be worked out in consultation with the Christian Council of Mozambique", he stated.

Dr. Lukas Vischer had been invited by the Christian Council of Mozambique (CCM) to discuss with the leaders of Protestant churches the possibility of closer unity. In a meeting under the chairmanship of the Rev. Dinis Sengulane, president of the Council, the representatives of the churches unanimously expressed readiness to seek ways to form a united church. It was recognized that such a move would require time. The Commission on Unity of the CCM was asked to work out proposals for further consideration.

The CCM has as members the Presbyterian Church, United Methodist Church, Free Methodist Church, Wesleyan Methodist Church, Congregationalist Church, Church of Christ and the Anglican Church. The Nazarenes, who also belong to the CCM, did not participate in the meetings. Several of the Protestant churches are still part of churches in other countries and need to obtain autonomy to be able to move towards unity with other churches.

Since Church/State separation went into effect there have been no official contacts between the government and the churches. Several missionaries and other individuals have been detained; they belong to such groups as the Nazarenes, Seventh Day Adventists, an African independent church and Jehovah's Witnesses. The charges against them have not yet been made known.

The Commission on Inter-Church Aid, Refugee and World Service of the WCC has included in its 1976 project list requests totalling \$205,280 for Mozambique. Part of the money would go to the reorganized CCM, which now has a full-time general secretary, the Rev. Isaac Mahlalela. By far the major share would aid the Church of Christ in the Province of Nampula in the north, a united church supported through the CCM. Situated in an area which saw heavy fighting, the church has been seriously hampered in its outreach. Now permission has been granted to erect a church building and student hostel and to work in the northern area where Protestants were heretofore denied access.

EPS

ECUMENICAL CALENDAR 1976JANUARY

January 11 - 22	Pacific Conference of Churches Assembly	Papua New Guinea
January 15 -	Course for Leaders of Lay Training	India
March 13	(Unit III)	
January 23 - 26	CICARWS/Pacific Conference of Churches	Papua New Guinea
January 26 - 29	Joint Meeting CEC/Council of European Roman Catholic Bishops	Bad Gandersheim,
January 30 - 31	CEC Presidium Meeting	Bad Gandersheim, Germany

FEBRUARY

February 2 - 4	Faith & Order Consultation on Week of Prayer	Geneva
February 7 - 8	World Alliance of YMCAs Executive Group, Standing Committee on Refugees and Rehabilitation	Geneva
February 8	World Alliance of YMCAs Executive Group, Standing Committee on Finance	Geneva
February 8	World Alliance of YMCAs Study Group on Christian Leadership and Open Membership	Geneva
February 9 - 11	World Alliance of YMCAs President's Comm.	Geneva
February 9 - 13	Week of Meetings, WCC	Geneva
February 23 - 24	SODEPAX Steering Committee	Geneva
February 24 - 29	Christian Jewish Liaison Committee	Jerusalem

MARCH

March 5 - 7	CMC Core Group Meeting	Geneva
March 14 - 26	World YWCA Executive Committee Meeting	Crêt-Bérard, Switzerland
March 16 -	CWME - Ecumenical team visitation to Sweden	Sweden
April 8	ending by a consultation with Swedish Church leaders	
March 22 - 26	WCC Officers and Executive Committee	Geneva
March 27 - 31	Meeting of Theological Education Task Force (CWME)	Athens, Greece
March 30 -	CEC Working Group on "Ecumenism in Europe"	Le Cénacle, Geneva
April 2		
March or April	Middle East Screening Group, MECC Assembly	Not yet known

APRIL

April 1 - 2	CICARWS/CEC Europe Group	Bucharest, Romania
April 1 - 10	Europe Screening Group, CICARWS	Bucharest, Romania
April 2	U.S. Conference Board of Directors Meeting	New York
April 3 - 9	Consultation with economists, ethicists and theologians - "Self-reliance and solidarity in the quest for international justice"	Bossey, Geneva
April 12 - 25	Seminar on Orthodox Worship and theology	Bossey, Geneva
April or May	Africa Regional Screening Group, CICARWS	Not yet known

MAY

May 15 - 22	Unit II/Sub-unit Core Groups CWME Core Group Unit III Core Group	Bossey, Geneva Geneva Geneva
May 18 - 22	Joint Meeting of Presidium and Advisory Committee of the CEC	Zagorsk, USSR

JUNE

Early June	Urban Industrial Mission Advisory Group Meeting	Vancouver, Canada
June 8 - 14	African and Asian Contributions to Contemporary theology - consultation with Asian and African theologians	Bossey, Geneva
June 10 - 16	Leuenberg Conversations	Sigtuna, Sweden
June 17 - 1 July	Spirituality and ecumenism - Course for church workers (pastors, priests, missionaries and members of communities)	Bossey, Geneva
June	Asia Regional Screening Group, CICARWS	Not yet known

JULY

July 10 - 11	World Alliance of YMCAs Standing Committee on Refugees and Rehabilitation	Leysin, Switzerland
July 10 - 11	World Alliance of YMCAs Study Group on Christian Leadership and Open Membership	Leysin
July 11	World Alliance of YMCAs Standing Committee on Finance	Leysin
July 12 - 16	World Alliance of YMCAs Executive Committee	Leysin
July 16 - 20	Meeting of Association of Theological Schools in Latin America	San José, Costa Rica
July 21 - 26	Theological Education Fund Committee	San José, Costa Rica
July 21 - 27	Justice of God and Justice of Man - Consultation with Biblical Scholars	Bossey, Geneva

AUGUST

August 7 - 9	WCC Executive Committee	Geneva
August 10 - 18	WCC Central Committee	Geneva
August 19 - 25	Faith & Order Consultation on Church Law	Bossey, Geneva
August 21 - September 1	Seminar on Education and Renewal, Unit III	Bossey, Geneva
August 23 - 29	World Alliance of YMCAs Conference on Peace	Palacios, Texas (USA)
August 23 - 29	Church, State and Law - Consultation with Theologians, Lawyers and Politicians	Bossey, Geneva
End of August	Orthodox Women's Consultation	Romania ?

SEPTEMBER

September 7 - 10	U.S. Conference for WCC	St. Simons Island Georgia, USA
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OCTOBER

October 15 - Graduate School of Ecumenical Studies, Bossey, Geneva  
 February 28, 77 "Who do you say that I am?"

NOVEMBER

November 1 - 5 Week of Meetings, WCC Geneva

DECEMBER

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KEY TO ABBREVIATIONS

CEC	Conference of European Churches
CICARWS	Commission on Inter-Church Aid, Refugee and World Service
CMC	Christian Medical Commission
CWME	Commission on World Mission and Evangelism
MECC	Middle East Council of Churches
SODEPAX	Committee on Society, Development and Peace
WCC	World Council of Churches
YMCA	Young Men's Christian Association
YWCA	Young Women's Christian Association

# EPS

## Ecumenical Press Service

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URUGUAY CLOSES WSCF'S OFFICE;  
PLEA MADE FOR PARAGUYAN TEACHER

Geneva (EPS) - Offices of the World Student Christian Federation (WSCF) and the church-sponsored Frontier Interns programme in Uruguay have been closed by an official decree of the Uruguayan Government, according to the French wire service Agence France Presse. Its dispatch from Montevideo was dated 21st January.

Mr. Juan Artola, publications secretary for the WSCF and FI's Latin America secretary based in Montevideo, has been detained since September 7, 1975. Efforts by church groups in the USA to ascertain the reasons for his detention have failed to produce results.

Begun 15 years ago with support from three American churches (United Presbyterian, United Methodist and United Church of Christ), F.I. has become international through regional offices on six continents. Interns work with indigenous groups on development, mission and liberation efforts.

The banning of the WSCF and FI is only the latest in a series of arbitrary measures taken by the government against Christian groups and institutions over the past 13 months. These include the suspension of the Mensajero Valdense, official organ of the Waldensian Evangelical Church in December 1974; the closing down of the Roman Catholic magazine Vispera in April 1975; the suppression of a pastoral letter of the Roman Catholic Bishops' Conference last October; and the jailing of several Jesuit priests at the beginning of this month.

Meanwhile in Geneva the Rev. José Chipenda, a United Church of Christ clergyman, sent a cable to Gen. Marcial Samaniengo, minister of national defense in Paraguay, requesting the release from prison of Prof. Miguel Chase-Sardi. This noted anthropologist and teacher directed the Marandu Project aiding the Indians of Paraguay before he was arrested on December 1, 1975. Mr. Chipenda had met the General Samaniengo during a visit to Paraguay in October 1974.

For the past two years the Marandu Project has conducted short courses in Indian communities on identity papers, land titles, employer obligations and legislation protecting Indians. It also used the mass media to instill respect for Indian customs among the general populace and encouraged the emergence of Indian organizations. Last year the World Council of Churches' Programme to Combat Racism assisted this project.

In 1971 Prof. Chase-Sardi participated in the Barbados Symposium on inter-ethnic conflict in South America sponsored by the PCR and the Commission of the Churches on International Affairs. In October 1974 he helped to organize the Indian Parliament of the Southern Cone (EPS No. 33, 1974), the first opportunity for an exchange of experiences and ideas among Indian leaders in Paraguay, Bolivia, Argentina and Brazil.

In the process of arresting the anthropologist police removed the files of the Marandu Project and impounded some of its property.

The International Commission of Jurists and Amnesty International have also asked for Prof. Chase-Sardi's release, noting that he has been working for the human rights of indigenous people.

EPS.



CHURCH OF SOUTH INDIA MOVES  
TOWARDS WOMEN'S ORDINATION

Tiruchirapalli, India (EPS) - History was made by the 15th Synod of the Church of South India with the declaration that "men and women are both equally eligible for the ordained ministry of the church and the dioceses are authorised to recruit, train and ordain women to the office of presbyter". Two-thirds of the diocesan councils must ratify the decision.

In addition the synod agreed that as a general policy women should make up not less than 25% of the membership of all committees, commissions and councils of the dioceses and in the synod and youth should make up not less than one-third of the total membership.

The synod was attended by 344 delegates, observers and visitors including 24 from overseas. Sessions were held at Bishop Heber College from 13th to 17th January. Formed in 1947 by the union of Anglican, Presbyterian, Methodist and Congregational churches, the Church of South India today has a membership of 1.6 million people in 18 dioceses.

In another important action on "life style" the synod advised church members to miss a meal once a week and set aside the money for people in dire need, once a month to invite one of the poorest families in the community to eat a meal together and finally to donate one day's salary a month for social development work.

Insofar as the 20-point programme of Prime Minister Indira Gandhi and her government is intended to make a significant contribution toward the amelioration of the conditions of the poor and oppressed, the synod called on dioceses and members to cooperate fully with the government in implementing this programme. At the same time the synod pleaded for a more radical and economic programme to bring about "a structure of justice meaningful for all sections of the people".

The synod expressed appreciation for the Prime Minister's commitment to preserve the democratic structure of the constitution. As freedom of communication is essential, the synod appealed to the Prime Minister to withdraw the present restrictions on freedom of the press and fundamental rights as early as possible. It also asked "fair means of justice" for political prisoners.

Theme of the meeting was "Jesus Christ Frees and Unites". Expressing concern at the unjust structures and powerful exploitative forces operating in both nation and church, the synod took a strong stand against those who acquire wealth through illegal and anti-social means. The church was asked to distribute its unused or unusable land and property to the underprivileged for housing sites. And a uniform law of succession (inheritance) was advocated for all citizens. A thorough study of church life will be undertaken by a competent committee.

EPS

## MADAGASCAR CYCLONE VICTIMS AIDED

Geneva (EPS) - The Commission on Inter-Church Aid Refugee and World Service (CICARWS) has sent \$5,000 as a quick measure to assist the Federation of Protestant Churches of Madagascar in ministering to victims of the disastrous January 13-14 cyclone in northern part of the island nation. Initial reports reaching CICARWS from the Rev. Daniel Ratefy, general secretary of the federation, give the scene of the disaster as Majunga Province. Several thousand were made homeless, five people were killed and 35 gravely injured.

EPS

U.S. COUNCIL EXECUTIVE SPEAKS  
TO SENATE FOREIGN POLICY GROUP

New York (EPS) - U.S. foreign policy and the use of Christian missionaries as information-gatherers for the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) were the subject of two initiatives taken recently by officers of the National Council of Churches (NCC).

Dr. Claire Randall, NCC general secretary, was one of five nationally known religious leaders who addressed the U.S. Senate Foreign Relations Committee on "foreign policy in the next decade".

She suggested three concepts that grow out of "our understanding of the Christian faith". These were the interdependence of the whole human family, the necessity to side with the powerless and the basic human dignity of all persons.

Calling for a new definition of national interest, she stressed that "other nations' growth is a part of our growth" and said "we should seek their well-being in partnerships for peace, realizing that we are mutually dependent for security". She mentioned specifically the need for U.S. leadership in response to the call for a new international economic order, for international codes to control trans-national corporations and for strong support of the U.N.

Dr. Randall also recommended U.S. withdrawal of support for those repressive regimes on the right and left which stay in power largely due to American aid. The most effective way to promote democracy and oppose communism, she said, is to "support those activities of other nations which build a decent standard of living and political freedom for all persons".

Finally she pointed to the increased violation of human rights in many parts of the world, particularly in South Korea, the Philippines, South Africa and Chile. U.S. citizens of conscience would not permit their future to be safeguarded at the expense of repression abroad, subsidized by their taxes, she maintained.

Last month Dr. Randall and Dr. Eugene Stockwell, the NCC's associate general secretary, sent a letter to the CIA asking for a halt in the use of American missionaries and foreign clergy in intelligence-gathering. They enclosed a statement by the NCC's Executive Committee.

In reply, CIA Director William Colby said very few such contacts had taken place and those that had were purely voluntary. "CIA funds are not being expended for operations using American clergy", he said. The few relationships which exist are limited to "contacts in which those Americans provide information or assistance to their government in the same fashion as other Americans abroad patriotically assist their country".

Meanwhile a letter from the Rev. M.A.Z. Rolston, general secretary of the National Christian Council of India, to Boyd Lowry, Southeast Asia secretary of the NCC-USA, said: "The churches in India will not tolerate the reported involvement of missionaries in CIA work. We will not compromise the political integrity of our country. We do not want anyone associated with our churches to be involved in such political activity, which is undoubtedly against the interests of our country".

EPS

POTTER SEES ECUMENICAL  
MOVEMENT AS FORCE FOR PEACE

Geneva (EPS) - A strong plea to Christians "to be arms of peace" was made here by Dr. Philip A. Potter, general secretary of the World Council of Churches, during an ecumenical worship service on 22nd January in the Roman Catholic Church of St. Nicolas de Flue. He was addressing numerous diplomats and representatives of international organisations attending a service marking the ninth World Day of Peace. Presiding was Cardinal Sergio Pignedoli, president of the Vatican Secretariat for Non-Christians.

Notwithstanding numerous agreements and activities of various international bodies, Dr. Potter said, "the weapons of war have been much more powerful than the weapons of peace". Still he saw three grounds for hope: (1) Enmity, hatred, violence, exploitation and self-interest are not the last word. "There is another voice, that of love, goodwill, generosity and forgiveness; it is the best, the only true voice". (2) Christ speaks to people directly in their daily lives. "It is in day to day relations that the climate for peace is created within and among nations". (3) In the last two decades Christians have made concerted attempts to listen together to Christ's voice; they have attempted to speak and act together to achieve peace.

To be an authentic manifestation of faith in today's world, the Church must demonstrate unity and peace in its own life, Dr. Potter said. "This is the task of the ecumenical movement which is a true force for peace. The WCC and the Roman Catholic Church are instruments of this movement for the peace of the world".

Cardinal Pignedoli strongly supported this view, underlining however, that as citizens of the world "we continue to put our trust in organisations such as the UN, politicians, sociologists and those specializing in international affairs". He insisted on the need to continue without let-up efforts to spread the message of peace throughout the world. Finally he appealed to public officials to solicit the will of the people before taking decisions concerning peace in the world.

EPS

PACIFIC CONFERENCE VOTES  
IN ROMAN CATHOLICS

Port Moresby, Papua (EPS) - The Pacific Conference of Churches (PCC) voted to receive the Roman Catholic Church into membership during its assembly held on the campus of the University of Papua New Guinea, 18th to 21st January. This was the first time a regional body had taken such a step. In the Caribbean the Roman Catholic Church was one of the founders of the Caribbean Conference of Churches. The South Pacific Bishops' Conference includes 10 dioceses in territories such as Western Samoa, Fiji, Tonga, Cook Islands, New Hebrides, Tahiti and New Caledonia. Other new PCC members are the Solomon Islands Christian Association and the Samoan Fellowship Churches.

EPS

AID TO NAMIBIA URGED  
AT DAKAR CONSULTATION

Dakar, Senegal (EPS) - The international community was strongly urged to work for the end of South African control of Namibia (South-West Africa) by a consultation held here in early January.

The meeting - attended by 300 delegates representing governments, inter-governmental organisations, liberation movements and non-governmental organisations including churches - was arranged by the International Commission of Jurists, the Namibia Council of the UN and the Commission on Human Rights at Strasbourg, France.

Mr. Dwain Epps, executive secretary of the Commission of the Churches on International Affairs (WCC), and Dr. Carl-Johan Hellberg of the Lutheran World Federation both addressed the consultation.

Concluding that South Africa would never willingly end its "illegal occupation" of Namibia, the consultation said that "so long as the international community does not use the means with which it has endowed itself, or can endow itself, to put an end to the illegal occupation of Namibia ... all means, including armed struggle, are justified to liberate the country."

"Consequently," it was declared, "it is necessary to enlist the effort of the international community and more particularly that of the countries of Africa by giving SWAPO (South-West Africa Peoples Organization) all the political, moral and material support it so sorely needs."

In addition to the declaration, the consultation adopted a "programme of action" which calls for the establishment, from 1976, of an International Week of Solidarity with the people of Namibia - each year on the week following October 27, the anniversary of the end of South Africa's mandate.

(South Africa administers the territory under a mandate from the now-defunct League of Nations which the United Nations and the World Court have declared no longer valid.)

The action programme calls on the UN Security Council to declare that free elections be held in Namibia under UN supervision, that all political prisoners be released and political exiles be accorded unconditional facilities to return to their country.

Some 10 church representatives at the Dakar meeting, while working with all other delegates on the final declaration and programme of action, also formulated their own statement. It enumerated a wide variety of human rights violations in Namibia and said that such conditions have been "justly and repeatedly condemned by world governments". It called for affirmation of the condemnations and said the consultation should not be "seduced by the contention that South Africa will bring about constructive change voluntarily."

The church representatives asked churches and international agencies to press for an end to nuclear cooperation with South Africa and to stop economic aid by boycotting banks involved in loans to South Africa.

MIDLAND SHAREHOLDER ACTION  
STARTED BY U.K. CHRISTIANS

London (EPS) - Several leading Christians in Great Britain are seeking signatures on a petition to stop the Midland Bank from making loans to South Africa. In a letter to the Guardian on 19th January they ask all Midland shareholders interested in having the matter brought to the annual shareholders' meeting to notify ELTSA (End Loans to Southern Africa).

Among those signing the letter were Dr. Ernest Payne, former president of the World Council of Churches; Ms Pauline Webb, former Central Committee vice-moderator; the Rev. D. Colin Morris, general secretary of the Methodist Missionary Society; the Rev. John Huxtable, executive officer of the Churches Unity Commission; and Anglican bishops David Sheppard, Kenneth Woolcombe and Trevor Huddleston.

"The question of loans by British banks to the Government of South Africa has become increasingly important now that it is clear how much the system of apartheid depends on such loans", wrote the British Christians. They noted, for example, that the 1975 report of the South African Reserve Bank mentioned loans of more than 1,000 million rand to government and state corporations between July 1974 and June 1975.

A proportion of such loans, the letter states, were provided by the European American Banking Corporation of which the Midland Bank is a member.

"We find such loans morally unacceptable, as they play a crucial role in strengthening an economy based on the exploitation of the black majority in South Africa for the benefit of the white minority", the letter concludes.

EPS

GDR BISHOP COMMENTS ON WCC'S FUTURE

Dresden, German Democratic Republic (EPS) - The most important tasks facing the churches in the wake of the World Council of Churches' Fifth Assembly will be posed by Africa, Asia and Latin America, in the view of Dr. Johannes Hempel, bishop of the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Saxony.

At the same time church life in the GDR is not "uninteresting" for other WCC member churches, Bishop Hempel said in the first appraisal of the Assembly coming out of this country. "Not many churches in the world have to follow their way of obedience in a socialist and secular society. Experiences gathered in this specific situation can be important for many other churches in the World Council", he declared in an interview with Mecklenburgische Kirchenzeitung.

Bishop Hempel, newly elected to the WCC Central and Executive Committees, said his membership in these bodies can contribute to an effective ecumenical conscientization in the GDR. It will facilitate the regular dissemination of information among the churches following committee sessions. While church press and the religious news service offer opportunities along these lines, personal and first-hand impressions shared with the churches are essential for their programme involvement, he said.

(more)

Questions and issues affecting the World Council must be discussed among churches in the GDR prior to Central Committee meetings "because this committee's work is not a private matter for individual members, who are committed to existing convictions of the churches they represent", he noted.

Financial stringencies of the World Council will necessitate "a hard look" at existing programmes, "an unpopular task for the next Central Committee", the German churchman said. The financial problem can only be dealt with successfully "if we can agree on the most convincing priorities for the future" and pinpoint activities which can be dispensed with if necessary, he added.

EPS

NEW DAY FOR WOMEN PROCLAIMED  
BY NORWAY'S LUTHERAN BISHOPS

Oslo (EPS) - A commission of the Lutheran Bishops' Conference of Norway has resolved, by a 4 to 1 majority, that women can no longer be asked "to be submissive" to their men. The Apostle Paul's admonition merely reflected the mores of his time and, in accordance with Article 28 of the Augsburg Confession, is not eternally binding for the church, the bishops declared.

The commission determined, that a practical view of the tasks of women and men in society, home and church must be based on the fact that women and men were created in the image of God and therefore are equal before God. The church has too easily accepted traditions and sociological structures without questioning and criticizing decisions and specific sex roles on the basis of equality, love and service, the bishops said.

With the advent of the women's liberation movement, the patriarchal social order is more and more being questioned by an ethical consciousness in accord with the Christian understanding of the value and the rights of all mankind. Today the Christian Church must realize this basic view by working towards woman's liberation to the best of its Christian understanding.

Equality of women must be for Christians as natural as the Christian home, which forms the basis for husband and wife to build their life together. The Lutheran Bishops' Commission warned expressly against the assumption that the liberation of women also demands new forms of sexuality. It urged that the position of women in the church must be improved and recommended that the church encourage women to enter the ministry. The Bishop of Nidaros voiced other views.

EPS

MORE WATER FOR WOMEN

Christchurch, New Zealand (EPS) - During International Women's Year, New Zealand women contributed \$49,000 to sink bore wells in Third World countries. A leaflet distributed by the New Zealand Council of Churches promised that the money contributed to the special "Water for Women" fund would provide families with water for domestic purposes and for irrigating small farms enabling refugees and others to develop their own resources.

The New Zealand Council of Churches recently joined with the Roman Catholic Bishops' Conference to form a joint secretariat on development. An Anglican priest, Michael C. Elliott, formerly with the British Council of Churches, is the executive officer.

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# Ecumenical Press Service

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PACIFIC CHURCHES PRESS  
JUSTICE, DEVELOPMENT

Port Moresby, Papua (EPS) - Self-government for the New Hebrides and a nuclear-free zone in the Pacific were endorsed by the Pacific Conference of Churches (PCC) in the final days of its Third Assembly held on the campus of the University of Papua New Guinea last month.

In an unusual political action the 57 delegates from 17 Pacific churches urged Great Britain and France, who jointly administer the New Hebrides, to take "immediate constructive steps towards building up a political unity". Member churches and ecumenical organizations represented at the meeting were urged to bring the New Hebridean request to the attention of their governments.

The issue came to the floor in a commission report on evangelism, which contained not only recommendations on church renewal but also suggestions for "prayer, planning and action" to confront forms of "injustice and oppression" in Pacific countries.

The PCC's Church and Society Programme was asked to coordinate action to combat financial and economic exploitation.

Delegates from the French territories joined those from English-speaking countries in unanimously calling for a nuclear-free zone in the Pacific by endorsing a resolution passed in 1974 by the PCC's Executive Committee.

Noting that local people in the French territories are "deeply divided" on the issue because of more jobs available in French Polynesia, a commission report observed: "If the churches say 'no' it is interpreted as meaning 'we want independence'. If they say 'yes' it is interpreted as meaning 'we want to stay with France'".

The commission report on development pleaded for a "prophetic awareness" of ways people are being manipulated by commercial interests in particular, so that Christians can utter a "prophetic no". Earlier Bishop Patelisio Finau of Tonga, a Roman Catholic, had emphasized the need to look at "the root problem of justice because to develop people without justice is hopeless". He also expressed the hope that Pacific countries would emphasize total human development "as opposed to the narrow conception of mere material development".

The Rev. Sitiveni Ratuveli of Fiji urged the churches to "evangelize by our lives ...or we will be guilty of another kind of imperialism - evangelical imperialism".

Commending the Assembly for its action accepting the Roman Catholic Bishops Conference into membership (EPS No. 3), Dr. Sione 'A Havea of Tonga said, "Now our fears have been changed to hope. We are entering a new stage in our conference of churches". Replying to those who had said the PCC was too young to absorb a conference of bishops Bishop Finau said: "PCC would mature in the wrong way without the bishops' conference because it would not have full representation of the churches in the Pacific".

The general secretary of the PCC, the Rev. Posenai Musu, asked that "women of the Pacific be placed equally with men in the churches' activities". He hoped that national councils of churches would invite women as members of their councils". About one-fourth of the delegates to the PCC Assembly were women and seven women from Samoa and Fiji were official observers.

(more)



Mr. Musu also spoke of the "tremendous advances" of the ecumenical movement since the 1971 assembly in Suva, Fiji. With the admission of four new members the PCC now has 21 members in 15 countries. "Nearly all the regional areas now have their own national forms of ecumenical cooperation", Mr. Musu observed. "We shall completely distort the life of our churches if we do not press forward on that widely ecumenical basis".

Anglican Bishop Jabez L. Bryce of Polynesia was elected chairman of the PCC succeeding Mrs. Masiofo Fetau Mata'Afa of Western Samoa. The Rev. Bruce Deverell of Suva, Fiji, was named associate general secretary.

Present at the Assembly were some 50 observers from around the world including the Rev. Rex Davis representing the World Council of Churches.

EPS

#### CHRISTIAN UNITY WEEK SERVICES UTILIZE NAIROBI FINDINGS

Geneva (EPS) - Reports from the Nairobi Fifth Assembly and the emphasis on unity and mission given by the Assembly figured prominently in this year's observances of the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity, 18th to 25th January.

While not all reports are in, a sampling shows Protestants, Roman Catholics and Orthodox in a number of places used firsthand reports by Assembly participants as the starting point for much more realistic and pragmatic discussions of Christian unity than in former years.

Encouraging reports have been received from Portugal and Poland on observances there.

The Portuguese Council of Christian Churches had translated and published the internationally prepared programme of the week and it was used all over the country, according to the Rev. Ireneu Cunha, the council's general secretary.

In Lisbon not only Episcopalians and Presbyterians participated in the service in a Roman Catholic Church but Moslems as well. The Koran as well as the Bible was read. In another Roman Catholic Church the offering was dedicated to the United Bible Societies, an unusual development.

In Oporto Anglican Bishop Pina Cabral of Mozambique was the main speaker. And Radio Renascença broadcast a series of interviews with important ecumenical leaders, including Protestant pastors Jose Leite and Ireneu Cunha, who spoke at length about the World Council of Churches. In Coimbra two bishops attended a colloquium on the Fifth WCC Assembly organized by Emaus house church, and 500 people heard a Protestant pastor (Cunha) speak for the first time in a Roman Catholic Church.

In Poland some 250 persons, including leading Roman Catholics, attended a symposium on Nairobi addressed by three of the seven Polish delegates. The president of the Ecumenical Council, Prof. Witold Benedyktowicz, transmitted the spirit of spontaneity and hope at work in Nairobi, as well as its discussions on theology and social international issues. The symposium was jointly organized by the council and the Christian Academy of Theology.

The Message of the Fifth Assembly was used in congregations as a common prayer during the week. At the opening service in Warsaw's Holy Trinity Lutheran Church a Methodist (Benedyktowicz) and a Dominican (Father Hauke-Ligowski) spoke. At St. James' Roman Catholic Church the sermon was by the president of the Polish Baptist Church (Michal Stankiewicz).

(more)

Reports from the USA mention that 1,200 people heard the president of the National Council of Churches, Dr. William P. Thompson, a Presbyterian, preach on freedom at Sacred Heart Catholic Cathedral in Newark, New Jersey. He warned Christians not to use the freedom of Christ to destroy other Christians.

Unusual features of the cathedral service included the sharing of unconsecrated bread distributed by 26 especially designated "ministers of bread", the signing of pledge cards promising to promote ecumenical understanding throughout the year, a penitential rite in which guilt for Christian division was admitted, and prayers giving thanks for the special gifts of various denominations.

In Madrid the Very Rev. Ramon Taibo (Reformed Episcopal) and the Rev. Daniel Vidal (Presbyterian) participated in two Roman Catholic churches, and the Rev. Julian Garcia Hernando of the Roman Catholic Church preached in the Presbyterian Church. At the Roman Catholic seminary Bishop Taibo's report on the Nairobi Assembly sparked a lively discussion among students. In Bilbao two Protestants, the Rev. Alberto Araujo and the Rev. Gabriel Canelles, spoke at Unity Week services arranged by the Secretariat for Ecumenism.

In France the new Ecumenical Translation of the Bible was put into use at services in Lyon. The Greek Orthodox Church of the Annunciation was the scene of a special service attended by Metropolitan Meliton, representative of the Ecumenical Patriarchate of Constantinople; Cardinal Alexandre Renard and Pastors Monsarrat and Kaltenmark. Orthodox, Roman Catholic and Reformed dignitaries also engaged in an ecumenical encounter in Grenoble.

In Great Britain the national covenant to seek unity proposed by the Church Unity Commission (EPS No.2) is being widely discussed among the Free Churches, Anglicans and Roman Catholics.

The Rt. Rev. Christopher Butler, Roman Catholic bishop of Hertfordshire (England), responded to the question 'What is the goal of Christian unity?' by saying: "Nothing less than the day when we can fully share in eucharistic worship and Holy Communion as a regular thing and with no mental reservations".

The quest for unity must be carried on at each of three levels of a church's life - the decision-making level, in theology, and at the day-to-day living out of the faith by individuals and groups.

"All together they must press on to the goal which only God's grace will enable us to attain", he said, "that we may not only be one (which in a sense we already are) but may be seen to be one".

The Church Times of London stresses the connection between unity and evangelistic mission. It recalled that the Anglican-Roman Catholic Consultation in the USA last autumn said: with regard to the mission of the Church "we have uncovered no essential points on which we differ". And the Church Times concludes: "here therefore is a clear challenge to members of the two churches to engage in unified evangelistic action". "Men grow together when they act together", says the editorial.

EPS

STARVING TRANSIT REFUGEES IN BEIRUT NEED  
FOOD BEFORE RESETTLEMENT CAN RESUME

Beirut (EPS) - Three thousand transit refugees, caught in Beirut by the conflict which halted their resettlement, are starving and need immediate food aid and medical care, according to Frank de Jonge, directing refugee services in the Lebanese capital for the World Council of Churches' Commission on Inter-Church Aid, Refugee and World Service (CICARWS).

Mr. de Jonge returned here from Athens when the airport reopened a little over a week ago. He said the conditions of refugees under his care are extremely serious. The food shortage among them has assumed critical proportions, the more so since they had been housed in areas in which fighting had raged continuously for months. Much of their housing was demolished and their sources of income disappeared. Many refugees had been killed, the Dutch relief worker said. The number of those requiring surgical aid and medical treatment is considerable.

Mr. de Jonge was assigned by CICARWS to the Beirut Office four years ago to direct the resettlement of non-Palestinian refugees and protect their welfare during their long periods of waiting. Their status as refugees had been established by the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees.

CICARWS forwarded immediate funds to feed the refugees. It will be administered by the CICARWS Refugee Office in Beirut, in cooperation with the Middle East Council of Churches.

CICARWS has been working with the Middle East Council of Churches on general relief for Lebanese citizens affected by the conflict. To date, the MECC has been supplied with US\$53,000 in cash (an initial \$10,000 in August 1975; the remaining \$43,000 being taken by the Emergencies Officer to Lebanon in late November/early December 1975).

Between the 16 and 21 December 1975, CICARWS agencies airshipped to MECC Beirut 7,944 kilos of blankets and 1,775 kilos of medical supplies. The total value of these shipments is approximately US\$52,000.

CICARWS member agencies continue to supply funds for cooperative work with MECC. They will be desperately required as the restoration of the people of Beirut becomes possible.

EPS

BRITISH CHURCHES ADVISED ON RELATIONS WITH MUSLIMS

London (EPS) - A practical guide for Christian churches in their relations with Muslims was published on February 3 and commended to the churches for study, debate and action. Written as a personal statement of the Bishop of Guildford, the Rt. Rev. David Brown, A New Threshold contains a preface signed jointly by the general secretaries of the British Council of Churches and the Conference of British Missionary Societies.

In view of the forthcoming World of Islam Festival (April-June) it is hoped that local groups will find useful the short section of prayers from Christian and Muslim sources and the four sessions of group work outlined in the appendix.

Noting that for many young people in Britain, other faiths are "real options", Bishop Brown also mentions such practical problems as the use of church buildings and planning of educational syllabuses in nations and cities where adherents of different religions live side by side.

EUROPEAN CHURCH LEADERS  
CONFERENCE ON HELSINKI, IRELAND

Bad Gandersheim, Federal German Republic (EPS) - Ecumenical cooperation, the implications of the Helsinki Agreement for the Christian churches, and reconciliation work in Northern Ireland were all discussed by leaders of European Protestant, Roman Catholic and Orthodox churches late last month.

The occasion was the first meeting of a joint Committee of the Conference of European Churches (CEC) and the Council of the European Bishops Conference (CCEE).

Using reports from the Nairobi Assembly and the Third European Bishops' Symposium held in Rome last October, they assessed their relevance for regional ecumenical cooperation. National churches will also be asked to study and comment on the document on Ecumenical Cooperation at Regional, National and Local Levels published by the Vatican Secretariat for Promoting Christian Unity.

Findings of CEC's consultation on the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe were examined.

"The importance of continuing and increasing responsibility in this work was recognized and further cooperation agreed", said a communiqué handed out at the close of the joint meeting.

Heretofore the Helsinki Agreement had been considered the concern of the Vatican Secretary of State, except for the clause on religious liberty. Now, however, the CCEE has agreed to ask the bishops' conferences to deal with the entire document.

On Northern Ireland the group agreed to various joint actions. Arrangements were made for joint study of theological and practical issues facing the churches there.

On disarmament consideration was given to methods of study and action, taking account of the different structures of CEC and CCEE. (CEC includes 106 Protestant and Orthodox churches in 26 European countries, CCEE has 23 episcopal conferences with more than 900 bishops.)

Following the joint meeting, the CEC presidium chaired by Dr. André Appel of Alsace-Lorraine agreed to follow very closely the reactions to the Helsinki Declaration prior to June 1977 when the signatory states will meet again in Belgrade. In the meantime European churches are asked to respond to suggestions made at CEC's consultation on Helsinki last October.

The sum of SwFr.292,776 has been subscribed to the European Churches Emergency Fund for Ireland. It will assist the Irish churches in their work of reconciliation.

The working group on peace advocated a reduction in expenditures on armaments so that the money saved could be used to aid developing countries. CEC may hold a consultation on this subject next autumn if its Advisory Committee gives assent when it meets the end of May in Zagorsk, USSR.

EPS

SWISS FEDERATION STARTS  
HUMAN RIGHTS PROGRAMME

Bern, Switzerland (EPS) - The general outlines of a new programme to defend human rights and to fight against discrimination and racism were adopted by the Assembly of the Swiss Protestant Federation meeting at Bern on 23rd January. The programme had been authorized last year.

A six-person commission chaired by the Rev. Reinhard Kuster will advise the Council of the Federation, which is responsible for policy in this field.

This is the first time these churches have undertaken a long-term programme with political implications. Major focus will be on information, study and action to nurture respect for human rights. Under discussion is the establishment of a documentation centre which could promote the exchange of information with experts in politics and economics. A booklet on "The Church and Human Rights" is also to be prepared for use by parishes and the general public.

Meanwhile the Federation has been asked to produce a declaration on this subject indicating the theological justification for the Church's participation in this field.

When the Federation's Assembly met last year in Geneva all its leaders were asked to commit themselves to a more widespread implementation of human rights. Their task is twofold: to make sure the subject is on the agenda of ecumenical conferences and, with the help of accurate information, to promote implementation of human rights by these conferences and in inter-church relations.

To maintain strong ecumenical solidarity the World Council of Churches was asked to listen to the voice of the churches and their institutions before passing resolutions affecting these bodies. A preparatory document giving guidelines for the new programme on human rights and racism stated: "As a member of the WCC the Swiss Federation must play an active role in helping to determine the course of the ecumenical movement. On the basis of accurate information it must draw attention to violations of human rights wherever they occur. It must contribute to ensuring that the ecumenical perspective is global in nature and that all onesidedness is avoided". Thus the decision to create an "office for the protection of human rights". Discussions are in progress with the Swiss Roman Catholic Bishops' Conference to see how it might share in this office. The Swiss Protestant Federation groups 17 cantonal churches, the association of Christians living in the diaspora and the Evangelical Methodist Church. These churches send 63 delegates to the Assembly.

EPS

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## Ecumenical Press Service

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GERMAN SCIENTIST EXPECTS GREATEST  
POLITICAL CONFLICTS YET TO COME

Geneva (EPS) - A world-renowned German philosopher and physicist expects that "the greatest world-wide political conflicts lie ahead of us" and that in the end right will not be on the side of any of the contending parties.

Dr. Carl-Friedrich von Weizsäcker of Hamburg held this view in a lecture on the theological development of Dietrich Bonhoeffer opening a four-day seminar in connection with 70th anniversary observances of the martyred German theologian's birth. Weizsäcker said his study of Bonhoeffer leads him to feel this is the view the latter would take if he were alive today.

Bonhoeffer was executed in Germany shortly before the end of the Second World War for joining the underground opposition to Hitler which eventually made an attempt on Hitler's life in 1944. His writings have influenced both German and ecumenical theology in the 30 years since his death. The birthday tribute was sponsored jointly by the World Council of Churches and the International Bonhoeffer Committee.

Dr. Weizsäcker said Bonhoeffer's theology touches present-day problems because, as he foresaw, modern culture is no longer subservient to church authority. Moral guidelines to mould the emancipated world are lacking and the modern emancipation movement which has now become ecumenical, reaching all the world's cultures, strives for an "autonomous morality".

Today, said Weizsäcker, there are scarcely any human conflicts which could not in principle be solved by rationality on both sides. "The stupidity which prevents the solution stems from the absence of real will and this is the consequence of fear..Mutual fear reinforces this emotional entanglement between human beings. It is dissolved not by rational argument but only by a purer passion, by love. The possibility of reconciling love is an experience of grace. To turn openly towards this grace is faith...we can only really love the neighbour in God."

Bonhoeffer, said Weizsäcker, is relevant because he could see "that the more spiritual the Christian life becomes, the more worldly it must be, and the more worldly it becomes, the more spiritual it must be." With his "non-religious interpretation" of the biblical message, Bonhoeffer demolished the defensive wall around the Church and opened its provincialism to modern consciousness.

"The Church is the guardian of the knowledge of the only thing that heals, namely love to the neighbour right across all the opposing fronts", said Weizsäcker. It fails to guard this knowledge when it persists in claims based on its own historical position. By reinforcing the barrier between Christianity and non-Christian religions, the most important parts of Christ's message are lost.

More than 100 theologians from many countries participated in last week's observance. They heard addresses by, among others, the editor of Bonhoeffer's books, Dr. Eberhard Bethge; WCC General Secretary Dr. Philip A. Potter; the president of the foreign office of the Evangelical Church in Germany, Dr. Heinz Joachim Held; the president of the Federation of Evangelical Churches in the German Democratic Republic, Bishop Albrecht Schönherr; and Honorary WCC President W.A. Visser 't Hooft. Presentations at the seminar will be published in a book later this year.

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#### · KEY TO ABBREVIATIONS

AACC : All Africa Conference of Churches  
 CCIA : Commission of the Churches on International Affairs  
 CCPD : Commission on the Churches' Participation in Development  
 CEC : Conference of European Churches  
 CJCARWS : Commission on Inter-Church Aid, Refugee and World Service  
 CMC : Christian Medical Commission  
 CWME : Commission on World Mission and Evangelism  
 EEC : European Economic Community  
 GDR : German Democratic Republic  
 ICYE : International Christian Youth Exchange  
 LWF : Lutheran World Federation  
 SODEPAX : Committee on Society, Development and Peace  
 WARC : World Alliance of Reformed Churches  
 WCC : World Council of Churches  
 WSCF : World Student Christian Federation  
 YMCA : Young Men's Christian Association  
 YWCA : Young Women's Christian Association

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# EPS

## Ecumenical Press Service

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PACIFIC ISLANDERS STRESS  
VALUES, LOCAL INITIATIVES

Popondetta, Papua New Guinea (EPS) - At the first World Council of Churches consultation since the Nairobi Assembly, Pacific Islanders put the accent on human values, evangelism, the integrity of spiritual and physical development before talk of money and aid programmes.

The "values of the Kingdom" are to be found with the village people, agreed representatives of 15 island territories attending the consultation on "The Service Ministry of the Churches" sponsored by the Commission on Inter-Church Aid, Refugee and World Service (CICARWS).

At one point a Pacific caucus was held excluding all Europeans, both the eight representatives of donor agencies and those living in the Pacific. It succeeded in shaping a series of resolutions emphasizing local initiatives and the use of local resources and technology. These built upon a consultation held in Tonga last September at which Bishop Patelisio Finau, a Roman Catholic, was host.

Popondetta, however, marked three changes. First, the critical concerns of Tonga were framed in a positive way as guidelines for future programmes and projects in the Pacific. The strengthening of a Christian ministry to the whole person and whole communities for renewal, mission and unity was the first priority. Self-reliance, grass-roots involvement, respect for cultural values, simple technology, attacking the root causes of injustice and ecumenical commitment were among the phrases used. But jargon did not go unchallenged.

"My village people know what grass is and they dig for roots", said Gaby Runikera of Solomon Islands. "Grassroots is no problem, but what does 'appropriable' technology mean?"

"Well", said the adviser, "I suppose it means able to be used by local people".

"Why not say so!" And so a new litany began: "What does it mean? Why not say so!"

Secondly, a major issue was the extent to which Roman Catholic resources would or could become available for ecumenical use. Perhaps because of the warm atmosphere resulting from the recent election of the Roman Catholic Church into full membership in the Pacific Conference of Churches (EPS No.3) and the longer standing membership of the Catholic Church in the Melanesian Council of Churches, it was easier for some representatives to raise this question.

Bishop Finau and other Catholics responded positively and the consultation asked Roman Catholic authorities to see how their Church can fund as well as share in certain ecumenical projects.

Thirdly, Popondetta was an experience in worship as well as discussion about aid. In the concluding service President Sione Havea of the Methodist Church in Tonga asked all participants to put their copies of the resolutions on the altar to receive them back later in an act of commitment. This symbolised the willingness of the Pacific churches and ecumenical fellowships to see how they could share their own resources in practical ways before looking to the wider world.

(more)

The consultation was chaired by the Rev. Fred Timakata of the New Hebrides. Representatives were suggested by the different councils of churches and ecumenical fellowships in the Pacific, most of which include the Roman Catholic Church. Mr. Adrian Wijemanne, director of the Ecumenical Church Loan Fund, and the Rev. Rex Davis, acting Pacific Area secretary for CICARWS, represented the WCC.

EPS

#### GDR BISHOP PLEADS WITH PASTORS TO STAY WITH THEIR PARISHES

Berlin, German Democratic Republic (EPS) - More and more Christian ministers wish to move from the German Democratic Republic to the Federal Republic. West German sources say that 50 pastors crossed the frontier last year.

Faced with this situation, Bishop Albrecht Schönherr of the Church of Berlin-Brandenburg (GDR) sent a letter to pastors last month urging them to stay at their posts in spite of the painful experiences they sometimes have.

Acknowledging that "some are debating their continued service here", the letter spoke understandingly of the motives that prompt some to leave. The bishop mentioned specifically those who came in the 1950's at the urging of church officials, those having parents in the Federal Republic and wishing to join them, and others who "despite all our efforts to aid them" see their children kept from pursuing the studies of their choice. And then there are those who say with bitterness and disappointment: "I cannot live here any longer".

Bishop Schönherr furthermore stressed that "the life of our parishioners is often harder than that of church pastors". And he added: "Our parishioners expect us to be faithful to them and to remain with them". In the present situation they need pastoral counseling more than ever before. "Today this is more evident than at any time in my ministry", he wrote.

To the theological students who ask whether they are indispensable in the GDR or could serve Christ equally well in the FRG, Bishop Schönherr answered: "As long as the holes cannot be filled by an exchange of personnel, each departure will leave a vacancy that it will take us a long time to fill". The church presently lacks catechists and personnel for its social centres, hospitals and work among the handicapped. There are 860 pastors but 70 parishes are still without ministers.

Under an agreement between the Evangelical Church in Germany and the Protestant churches of the GDR, the former should not take a pastor unless he is released by his home church. In practice the GDR churches give this permission only in exceptional cases. Referring to the "human right to emigrate", some have termed this "inhuman". The bishop responds by asking if it is not just as inhuman to expect those church officials who remain to carry on the work of those who left.

"What is at stake is our parishes, our brothers and sisters who continue to perform their mission. The very credibility of our service hangs in the balance", he stated.

EPS

WORLD YMCA AIDS GUATEMALAN CHILDREN,  
REAFFIRMS ARGENTINE ASSEMBLY SITE

Geneva (EPS) - A telephone call from Costa Rica in the closing minutes of the World YMCA President's Committee meeting last week brought word that 1,000 children orphaned by the Guatemala earthquakes are being received by the newly founded YMCA of Costa Rica. Both governments had approved the move. It is anticipated that most of the children will be returned to their relatives in Guatemala in due course.

The World Alliance of-YMCA's approved grants of US\$ 38,000 for 1976 and \$ 35,000 for 1977 requested by the Costa Rican association, with an initial payment sent immediately.

The Refugee and Rehabilitation Services will be strengthened with the addition in May of a 30-year-old Canadian, Mr. Gordon Ball, who has fieldwork experience in Thailand and the Middle East. He will be an associate secretary for rehabilitation work.

The 14-member President's Committee chaired by Dr. K.M. Philip of India meets between the annual meetings of the Executive Committee. At its session here 9th to 11th February it reaffirmed the decision to hold the 1977 World Council meeting in Buenos Aires after hearing a report on the situation in Argentina from Mr. Eduardo Galletti, president of the Latin American Confederation. Programme preparations were examined and approved.

Satisfaction was expressed with the programme of international cooperation for development. In addition to regional seminars on all continents to help national movements engage in development work, a considerable number of development projects are under way. The World Alliance is seeking \$7 million for 14 such projects.

A World Youth Conference on Peace will bring some 200 participants from all continents to Palacios, Texas (USA) from 7th to 14th November (not August as announced in the Ecumenical Calendar). Plans are in the hands of a youth committee headed by Mr. Helmut Beutler of Berlin (FRG) with staff assistance from Mr. John Peacock in Geneva and Mr. Stephen Hayes, New York. Purpose of the conference is to see what initiatives YMCA members can take for peace.

The YMCA closed its books for 1975 with a surplus of SwF 7,000 thanks to the loyal support of national member movements and strict control of expenses. The refugee services reported a SwF 57,000 deficit on a budget of \$ 786,000

The President's Committee received into membership the YMCA in Chile, noting it has fulfilled all constitutional requirements.

EPS

HONORARY WCC PRESIDENT RECEIVES PRIZE

Strasbourg, France (EPS) - The 1976 prize of the Louise Weiss Foundation has been awarded to Dr. W.A. Visser 't Hooft, honorary president of the World Council of Churches, by the Institute for the Science of Peace. Special mention was made of his memoirs published in English in 1972 and in French only last year. The prize was awarded 7th February on the occasion of the presentation of honorary degrees by the University of Strasbourg. Present among others were Mr. Jean Guitton of the French Academy and Mr. Jean Courvoisier, president of the French Protestant Federation.

EPS

WSCF STRUGGLES TO CONFESS  
FAITH IN LIBERATION CONTEXT

Longueuil, Quebec, Canada (EPS) - The World Student Christian Federation is "a community of believers which is striving to find new ways of expressing faith in the context of very precise commitments in the struggle for economic, political and social liberation".

This affirmation, contained in a paper on "The Self-Understanding of the WSCF", was perhaps the most important action taken by the federation's Executive Committee, which met last month at a Jesuit retreat centre here.

In addition to two representatives from each continent, the committee was joined by fraternal delegates and accredited guests from the Student Christian Movement (SCM) of Canada, the Young Catholic Students of Quebec and related student organizations and churches in the USA and Canada. Ms. Margaret Youngquist of Minneapolis, Minnesota, a new member of the Central Committee of the World Council of Churches, was a fraternal observer.

The meeting also voted to continue its programme on "Militarism, Student Exiles, Refugees and Political Prisoners" and accepted an invitation from the Cuban SCM to send a delegation to "share in the productive process" and participate in a seminar on "Christianity, Marxism and the Struggle for Liberation". This will be held in late August at the Evangelical Theological Seminary in Matanzas. Plans were made for the next WSCF General Assembly scheduled for Colombo, Sri Lanka in early 1977.

A number of resolutions on international issues were passed. They dealt with Palestine and the Palestinian Liberation Organization, the Korean Student Christian Federation and the Faculty Christian Fellowship, the Committee for Peace in Chile, Angola, Namibia and Eritrea. Copies of the resolutions are available from WSCF headquarters at 37 Quai Wilson, Geneva.

EPS

CHURCH OF ENGLAND SELLS LAST  
SOUTH AFRICAN GOLD HOLDINGS

London (EPS) - The Central Board of Finance of the Church of England has sold the last of its shares in Consolidated Gold Fields (CGF), the largest British employer of African labour in South Africa. Lord Churchill, investment manager of the board, said the decision had been partly an economic one but also reflected some board members' unhappiness over holdings in South Africa.

Altogether more than 70,000 shares have been unloaded on the market over the last two years after a heated debate in the church's General Synod. The Counter Information Services in Britain had published an "anti-report" on CGF stating that profits are almost toally dependent on low production costs. It also noted that gold is South Africa's largest export item and the source of more than half its foreign exchange.

The recent action brings the Central Board into line with the Church commissioners, who avoid investing with companies dealing wholly or mainly in South Africa.

EPS

HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION URGED TO  
RECOMMEND SANCTIONS AGAINST CHILE

Geneva (EPS) - The United Nations Commission on Human Rights has been urged to consider recommending "appropriate sanctions against the present regime in Chile" because of continued violations of human rights in that country.

In testimony given here on February 16, the Rev. Dwain C. Epps, executive secretary of The World Council of Churches' Commission of the Churches on International Affairs, said much of the "massive evidence on the many aspects of human rights violations in Chile" contained in the report now before the Commission is confirmed by information the WCC has received from the churches in Chile.

The continuing existence of detention without charge for long periods of time, of torture, of missing persons "is but the tip of the iceberg", Mr. Epps declared. The alarming character of "blatant violations" indicated in the Working Group report should not hide from view the disastrous situation of Chileans unemployed for political and other reasons, widespread hunger, and the major restrictions on the freedom of expression, of movement and of religious activity affecting many thousands.

He said a World Council representative, who very recently returned from Chile, reported that detentions continue. Alone in January, according to the WCC official, 185 persons were arrested and remained in detention at least 48 hours. Of 5,000 presently imprisoned, 2,400 are serving sentences, 1,400 have been charged but not brought to trial, and 1,000 had no charges or trial.

Mr. Epps revealed that 987 persons known to the churches in Chile are listed as "missing".

The Chilean churches conservatively estimate that 20% of the population is presently undernourished, and that 16% of the working population, not including the chronically underemployed, are without jobs.

In the face of "incontestable and abundant" evidence, Mr. Epps told the UN Commission, "we wonder if the time has not come for the Commission to consider recommending appropriate sanctions against the present regime in Chile". He said this regime had repeatedly and "crassly defied" the admonitions of the UN Commission, including ordering the "effective expulsion of Lutheran Bishop Helmut Frenz whose activities in Chile were strictly humanitarian and irreproachable". Mr. Epps further cited actions against the Churches' Committee of Cooperation for Peace in Chile such as the detention of a number of its leaders and General Pinochet's demand for the dissolution of the committee.

Such open defiance should raise serious questions about the continuation of economic or other support from governments or international agencies, Mr. Epps added. "The churches refuse to admit that the world community is unable to cure a running sore in one of its members which affects the whole body," Mr. Epps said, reiterating the World Council's commitment to aid the UN in "a healing mission here on behalf of the whole of human kind".

EPS

## ECUMENICAL GROUP APPEALS FOR 6,000 CHILEAN, URUGUAYAN REFUGEES IN ARGENTINA

Geneva (EPS) - An emergency aid programme, jointly carried by the Ecumenical Argentinian Refugee Commission (CAREF) and its Roman Catholic sister organization, reaches 6,000 refugees from Uruguay and Chile, the Rev. Emilio Monti of Buenos Aires has told the World Council of Churches' Commission on Inter-Church Aid, Refugee and World Service (CICARWS).

Mr. Monti, a Methodist pastor who chairs the Argentinian Commission, and its executive secretary, the Rev. Armin Ihle of the United Evangelical Church of La Plata, visited Geneva to appeal for South American refugee aid measures in discussion with CICARWS and the Lutheran World Federation.

Mr. Monti reported that the churches have registered 18,000 refugees in Argentina in the last two years, of which 85% came from Chile. Some 3,000 of these have meanwhile been resettled in third countries. However, 400 new arrivals from Chile are recorded every month.

The Argentinian clergymen estimated that since September 1973 some 150,000 persons have fled to Argentina from Chile, while the influx of escapees from Uruguay was about half a million persons or almost 15% of the entire population. Church aid is given to people in the greatest need and efforts are made to resettle as many as possible in other countries through international organizations.

Refugee aid work by the churches is hampered by the political situation in Argentina, they said.

The churches' work in behalf of refugees from Chile and Uruguay was threatened throughout its existence by extreme rightist groups.

EPS

## BIBLE TRANSLATIONS NEARING 2,000

Stuttgart, FGR (EPS) - Some 28 languages were last year added to the list of those in which the Bible or portions of it are available for a grand total of 1,577.

In reporting on the United Bible Societies' effort to make the Scriptures truly indigenous, General Secretary Ulrich Fick said: "Ideally a Bible translator should translate from the original Hebrew and Greek into his/her own mother tongue to help the recipient of today 'hear' exactly that message which was communicated to the recipient of the original. In practice the work sometimes has to go through various stages. This is a difficult process involving not only teamwork and scholarly expertise but also dedication, patience and never-ceasing hope".

Last year entire Bibles were completed in Byelorussian, modern Indonesian, Kikaonde (Zambia/Zaire/ and Oluluyia (Kenya). Concerted efforts were made to put the New Testament into languages spoken in the Asia-Pacific Region. Portions of Scripture were published for the first time in Afaraf (Ethiopia), Kupsapiny (Uganda), Western Kutchin (Alaska, and Vaagriboli (India).

The UBS is assisting with 500 additional translations now in process.

EPS

NUCLEAR ENERGY ISSUE WILL  
CONFRONT NCC-USA COMMITTEE

New York (EPS) - When the Governing Board of the National Council of Churches meets early next month in Atlanta, Georgia (USA), it will be asked to take a position on one of the most explosive issues of the day-plutonium.

The vote will climax a process which began with a "first-reading" of a proposed policy statement on nuclear power from Plutonium at the previous meeting of the Governing Board last October. This aroused so much discussion that a formal hearing on "The Plutonium Economy" was held on January 28 in New York City. A tri-partite panel included both opponents and supporters of the proposed statement plus questioners from the churches.

The major question at that hearing seemed to be: in its rush to develop nuclear power as a substitute for depleting energy sources, is the USA saving society or putting it in jeopardy?

Nobel-prizewinning physicist Dr. Hans Alfvén of Sweden now teaching in California said: "We do not believe nuclear energy is necessary for the development of the country". Furthermore nuclear energy and nuclear bombs are "Siamese twins". "The spread of nuclear energy means an enormous production of plutonium and this means the easy spread of nuclear bomb capability".

Dr. Hans Bethe, another Nobel prizewinner and one of the government's advisers on nuclear energy policy, declared that alternatives to nuclear energy were not "viable", that safeguards were "adequate" and the pursuit of nuclear energy was not a desire for unlimited growth but a need to replace "what we had...our sources of energy are running out". Commenting on fusion as one alternative, he said, "We won't know for another 10 years if it is possible".

"The NCC position is based on fear", charged Dr. Preston Williams of Harvard Divinity School, one of three ethicists on the panel. Williams said he preferred a World Council of Churches study that looked at the pros and cons of nuclear energy without taking a position.

The NCC's proposed policy statement said: "We believe that the proposed 'plutonium economy' is morally indefensible and technically objectionable... All of the present or planned precautions intended to prevent releases of plutonium and other radioactive materials are imperfect and, for fundamental reasons, are likely to remain so. We fear that the cumulative effect of those imperfections may well be unprecedented and irremediable disaster".

Another ethicist, Dr. Margaret Maxey of the University of Detroit, could see both sides. On the one hand, if the hazards are not exaggerated, the NCC is calling attention to a serious threat to human survival. On the other hand, she thought the development of nuclear energy might be "placing us at the threshold of a new level of cultural evolution - one that would require stable global social arrangements and institutions, motivated by personal-social survival".

The NCC paper saw the requirement for stability as possibly leading to a police state.

The hearing brought out an uncertainty as to the intent of the policy statement. Did it call for a moratorium only on plutonium reactors, or did it object to all nuclear fission reactors? It was felt that this should be clarified in the final submission to the Governing Board next month.



## MATERIALS ON NAIROBI ASSEMBLY

Official reports

- English: "Breaking Barriers" edited by David M. Paton (SPCK, London and Eerdmans, USA available April).
- German: "Bericht aus Nairobi" edited by Walter Müller-Römheld and Hanfried Krüger (Otto Lembeck, Frankfurt, 408 pp., DM 19.80, available end of February).  
 "Ergebnisse aus Nairobi" (Reports of Sections and Plenary discussions), DM 7.50.
- Spanish: A semi-official report by Marcelo Pérez-Rivas (La Aurora, Buenos Aires, available March/April).

Popular reports

- German: "Oekumenische Orientierung Nairobi" (Otto Lembeck, Frankfurt and Friedrich Reinhardt Verlag, Basel, SwF 11.00).
- English: "Nairobi '75" by James W. Kennedy (Forward Movement Publications, USA, \$ 1.00)  
 "Nairobi Narrative" by Kenneth Slack (SCM Book Club, London, 90 p., available March).
- Dutch: "Horen, zien en.....schrijven" - Dagboek van Nairobi by Mink van Rijdsdijk (Kok, Kampen, Gld. 7.90).  
 "Dat was Nairobi" - a symposium edited by Hendrik Greven (Boekencentrum 's-Gravenhage).
- Swedish, Finnish, Danish, Italian: reports planned, no details available.

WCC Journals

- "The Ecumenical Review", January 1976: major addresses, editorial by Philip A. Potter, "Nairobi Diary" by A.H. van den Heuvel, WCC, SwF 7.00.
- "International Review of Mission", January 1976: address by Bishop Mortimer Arias, response by John Stott and extracts from other responses, further responses by participants, annotated report of Section I, excerpts from other Section reports, article on Dialogue, other items, available February 25, SwF 8.50.
- "One World" - January/February issue (special Assembly number), WCC, SwF 2.75.

Address all enquiries about publications to WCC's Publication Office,

(more)

150 rt. de Ferney, Geneva, Switzerland and WCC's New York Office,  
475 Riverside Drive (Room 439), New York, N.Y. 10027, or your local bookshop.

#### Audio cassettes

"Nairobi Highlights" a C-90, produced by Warren Day; excerpts from major addresses, worship, the debates, drama and music played and sung, available from Radio/TV Section, WCC, SwF 15.00.

German: "Brennpunkte", produced by Hans-Joachim Girock and Curt Hondrich, available from Radio/TV Section of the WCC and from Otto Lembeck Verlag, Leerbachstrasse 42, Frankfurt am Main 1, SwF 10.00 plus postage.

#### Record

"Break down the walls...", Assembly hymns, other music, by Peter Janssen's orchestra, available May/June, WCC Publications.

#### Slides and films

Nairobi slide set of 20, available from Film and Visual Arts, SwF 30.00, script in English or French.

WCC slide set of 80, available from Film and Visual Arts, SwF 100, script in English or French.

"Uppsala-Nairobi", film being produced by Sveriges Radio, Sweden, covering the Uppsala to Nairobi period, Nairobi Assembly and some projects, ready in August.

Nairobi '75, film being produced by Visnews, English and French, ready in February.

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## ETHIOPIAN PATRIARCH REMOVED

Addis Ababa (EPS) - His Holiness Abuna Theophilus has been dismissed as Patriarch of the Ethiopian Orthodox Church by the Provisional Military Administrative Council, according to Addis Ababa radio. No information was given as to his whereabouts.

He was appointed by the late Emperor Haile Selassie and not elected according to ecclesiastical regulations, the radio said. The charge is that he amassed a personal fortune through the sale of church lands and other transactions without paying taxes estimated at US\$ 250,000 and that he misappropriated international aid against famine.

Abuna Yohannes of Tigre Province had been named interim administrator until the regular election of a successor on 7 July. Meantime church business will be conducted by a provisional commission for church affairs.

Abuna Theophilus, 72, had been head of the 12 million member Ethiopian Orthodox Church since May 1971. Well-known in the ecumenical movement, he had participated in the first four assemblies of the World Council of Churches and was host to the Central Committee in January 1971. He had served two terms as president of the All Africa Conference of Churches.

In a message to the Fifth Assembly in Nairobi last November Abuna Theophilus voiced profound appreciation to churches and Christian agencies around the world who "have expressed their concern for Ethiopia in the hour of her dire need". He recalled that Ethiopia is one of the African countries most gravely affected by the recent calamitous drought and pointed out that its scattered villages and the lack of roads and other communication facilities had aggravated the problem.

"The problem is still far from over", he wrote. "The nation is consistently engaged in combatting the effects of drought in every way possible. We should recall on this occasion the many changes that take place in the living conditions of the people of this continent. The Church has a significant part to play in these developments as well as for the wellbeing of the people as a whole. We believe that history does not stand still; it moves and we should make it a movement forward".

He concluded by affirming that "holding to our faith in God and trusting in his living power, the Ethiopian Orthodox Church will take part wholeheartedly in helping the nation in its development forward".

In ecumenical circles familiar with the life of this church, the accusations against the patriarch by the political authorities have caused considerable astonishment. In the absence of full information from church sources, the World Council of Churches has undertaken to seek additional facts about the situation of the church and the departure of its leader.

EPS

## TRIAL OF SIX NAMIBIANS BEGINS

Swakopmund, Namibia (EPS) - Some 14 witnesses were called by the state in the first four days of the trial of six black Namibians -- five Lutherans and a Roman Catholic. All have pleaded not guilty to charges related to the assassination of Ovamboland Chief Minister Filemon Elifas on 16 August.

In its opening statement the prosecution announced it would attempt to prove that two cars were purchased in Windhoek, conveyed to the north for the use of terrorists and one car was used in helping to transport the assassins of the chief.

The trial is expected to last several weeks. The defendants face possible penalties ranging from five years to death.

Present in the courtroom was an eminent Irish attorney, Mr. Patrick McEntee, sent by the International Commission of Jurists as part of an international effort on behalf of the accused being coordinated through the Lutheran World Federation. Anglican and Roman Catholic churches have also contributed to a defense fund for the accused.

On trial are Aaron Mushimby, 31, and Andreas Nangolo, 45, Lutherans charged with purchasing a Land Rover for a person who handed it over to persons whose aim was to overthrow the South-West Africa administration. Also Hendrik Shikongo, 31, a Roman Catholic who is alleged to have provided transport to three persons, knowing they intended to abduct or cause bodily harm to Chief Elifas. Three Lutheran nurses, Ms. Rauna Nambinga, Ms. Naimi Nombowa and Ms. Anna Nagaihondjwa, are supposed to have given money to persons whose aim was to overthrow the administration.

EPS

AUSTRALIAN CHURCHES RALLY SUPPORT  
FOR UNCTAD IV COMMODITIES PLAN

Sydney, Australia (EPS) - Churches in Australia have urged their government to support the Integrated Commodities Programme to be discussed at the fourth session of the UN Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD IV) in Nairobi, Kenya in May.

Aim of the programme is to establish a minimal price for 10 commodities produced by Third World countries. Internationally financed stockpiles of such commodities as sugar, coffee, cocoa, tea, copper and tin would ensure just prices for primary products and a more stable income for exports.

A project to inform Australian churches on issues due to come up at UNCTAD IV in Nairobi is being sponsored by the Australian Council of Churches, Australian Catholic Relief and Action for World Development.

The Rev. John Mavor, staff member of the ACC, made a telling appeal for the Integrated Commodities Programme upon his return from the recent consultation on service ministries of the church held in Popandetta (EPS No. 5). He said, "Papua New Guinea is in serious financial difficulties because the price of copra, a major export earner for the nation, has dropped sharply. When I saw how the fluctuating price of such an important commodity as copra affects a developing country, I was impressed by the importance of our government's supporting the Integrated Commodities Programme".

EPS

#### UNION TALKS IN PROSPECT IN LIBERIA

Ganta, Liberia (EPS) - The United Methodist Church of Liberia has appointed a commission to begin talks with the Lutheran Church in that country looking towards eventual union. Addressing the 143rd annual Methodist conference meeting here, Lutheran Bishop Roland J. Payne said, "...with foreign boards cutting back support, the hope for Christianity in Liberia depends upon the union of the churches".

The two churches already cooperate in the production of Christian education materials, have a joint audio-visual centre and a publishing venture and have merged their theological education facilities.

Canon Burgess Carr, general secretary of the All Africa Conference of Churches, also addressed the annual conference, explaining the AACC's position on moratorium, liberation and reconciliation.

EPS

#### STUDENTS RETURN TO CHURCH, KOREAN CHRISTIAN FEDERATION SAYS

Seoul (EPS) - Formal activities of the Korean Student Christian Federation (KSCF) have been curtailed following the government crack-down on youth and student groups in May 1975. Yet the movement of Christian students is stronger than ever before, according to KSCF annual report for 1975.

As the only remaining national student organization in South Korea, KSCF has had to assume a broader role than previously.

"Many students are coming back to the Church and many are coming for the first time", the report states. "Since campus activities have been restricted, we are turning to the Church as the base for future activities".

Bible study has become much more popular and relevant among the students, the report notes. It focuses on three areas: (1) the image of Christ presented in the synoptic gospels; (2) the theology of the masses; and (3) current theologies.

Prof. James Cone of Union Theological Seminary in New York City was guest speaker at a special conference on black theology. Other subjects receiving attention are urbanization and urban studies (including problems of slum dwellers), rural studies, environmental problems (including industrial pollution) and labor problems (students are doing factory work and reflecting on the labour situation).

Because Christian students now have to take greater responsibility for the general student movement, they are feeling the need to define and understand their Christian identity. Also they are struggling to make up for their past neglect of the social sciences and ideology. More students have decided to take seminary training so they can move out into the provinces and serve as leaders in those areas.

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EPS

SWISS GROUP PROTESTS  
FAVORED TREATMENT FOR CHILE

Lausanne (EPS) - The Federal Council of Switzerland has received a strong protest against its decision to conclude a third agreement consolidating Chile's debt. The protest was contained in a letter from the "Declaration of Bern", a group including clergy, university faculty and industrialists dedicated to promoting solidarity with the Third World.

Coming only a few days after the UN Human Rights Commission had exposed the extent of torture and inhuman treatment practiced by Chile, the Swiss decision was termed particularly bad. It came at a time when General Pinochet's bloody regime was being publicly questioned in Chile itself, according to the Bern group.

If the industrial states had followed the example set by the Netherlands, Belgium and the Scandinavian countries which refused such financial negotiations, said the Bern letter, "it would have made a powerful contribution to ending the barbarous oppression inflicted on thousands of political opponents of the military regime".

The decision of the World Bank in granting a \$33 million loan to Chile and that of the Swiss Federal Council appear to pose a contradiction between accepted monetary practice and expression of solidarity with the oppressed which both have voiced, says the Declaration of Bern. They could have a negative effect on the Swiss people who may be confronted by such questions at the next referendum. The declaration of Bern letter concludes: "Solidarity with the oppressed cannot be accompanied by gains for the oppressors!"

EPS

JAPANESE CHURCHES WARN  
MISSIONAIRES ON CIA TIES

Tokyo (EPS) - The Central Committee of the National Christian Council of Japan has called on all governments involved in intelligence gathering activities to "cease and desist in the use of both expatriate and national religious workers in clandestine intelligence gathering activities".

Meeting on 12 February, the committee urged all missionaries from overseas serving in Japan and missionaries from Japan serving overseas "not to jeopardize the integrity of your Christian witness or that of others by participation knowingly in intelligence gathering activities of any sort". They were also asked to exercise caution to "avoid being unknowingly used in such activity".

Meanwhile the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) in Washington said it would no longer recruit American church workers as agents but would accept information voluntarily offered by clergy.

Churches and missionary agencies have raised strong objections to CIA use of their personnel for intelligence gathering purposes. Commenting on the new policy, Dr. Eugene Stockwell, associate general secretary of the National Council of Churches (USA), termed it "a good first step". If it means that the agency would solicit such information, the NCC official said he would oppose such a policy.

EPS



WORLD DAY OF PRAYER CHALLENGES  
WOMEN ON ALL CONTINENTS

Geneva (EPS) - This year's suggested service for the Women's World Day of Prayer (March 5) is presenting groups in affluent countries with "a very demanding job", according to four members of the German Committee who visited the Ecumenical Centre last week.

Mrs. Hildegard Zumach, Pfarrerin Helga Hiller, the Rev. Maria Barutzky and Mrs. Annemarie Schaefer came to Geneva to discuss with Ms. Brigalia Bam and other staff of the World Council of Churches how women in Germany could become effective advocates of ecumenical cooperation.

"Our task is not only to report what happened at the Nairobi Assembly but to help our congregations take up the issues mentioned there", said Mrs. Zumach, who is president of Protestant Women's Work in Germany and a member of the WCC's new Central Committee. "We are searching for new methods of ecumenical education".

Turning to the World Day of Prayer service prepared this year by an ecumenical group in Mexico, Mrs. Zumach said it calls for three short dramas showing women in situations of poverty, in changing men/women relationships, and in situations of oppression.

"German women will be confronted with the situation of some Latin American women and challenged to see what they have in common", said Mrs. Zumach, chairperson for World Day of Prayer in Germany. "It will certainly help us to read the Bible texts with new eyes", she commented.

Local groups have been encouraged to add their own experiences to the service. While not suffering from a lack of clean water themselves, German women will be asked to search out evidence of both spiritual and material poverty in their situation and to see how their dealings with children, for example, might appear to be repressive.

Materials circulated by the International Committee for World Day of Prayer include two pages of notes from the Mexican women explaining the theme "Education for All of Life". Their suggestions were examined by representatives of 37 countries meeting in Mexico last year and put into final form by a young Latin American writer.

In Great Britain the service has sparked a spirited exchange in the letters' column of the Church Times. It was initiated by Mrs. Margaret A. Millican of Bristol who wrote (February 13 issue): "Under such headings as 'the cry of the deprived', 'the cry of inequality' and 'the cry of repression' thoughts and emotions will be guided step by step along paths of spurious logic until participants are made to feel political criminals if, because they live above the subsistence level, they have the means of living a 'human life'.

The service, according to Mrs. Millican, "is peppered with the following assumptions: that the aim of the ideal society is to become more 'human'; that guilt attaches itself to 'affluent life in Britain'; that Christ identified with the poor exclusively; that the 'poor' do no wrong and that the 'rich' by definition cannot be anything but grasping...".

(more)

"A very different view" of the service is represented by Mrs. Pat Fowles of Chessington, Surrey, who responds (February 20 issue): "The 1976 service presents facts - incontrovertible, alas! - in simple and dramatic form...about the deprivation, inequality and repression which exist in many parts of the world. It sends up a prayer... that we may have our eyes opened to the needs of those so different from ourselves. Nowhere does it even hint at a practical solution in terms of violence, political action, Marxist dialectic or indeed any terms at all. What it does do is help us face our often unwitting part in the world situation which most Christians (though evidently not all) deplore; my wealth is indeed another's poverty".

EPS

#### FRENCH PROTESTANT TO TURN SPOTLIGHT ON POLLUTION

Paris (EPS) - A colloquium on the ethical issues involved in pollution has been authorised by the Council of the French Protestant Federation at its meeting here, 14 - 15 February. It will be held six months before the next general assembly. Some dossiers outlining the problem will be prepared by the Commission on Social, Economic and International Questions directed by Dr. Madeleine Barot.

A series of local and regional Bible study days will also be organized under the guidance of an interdisciplinary and interconfessional team.

The council voted to accept into membership the Protestant mission to Gipsies, which has 35,000 members led by 230 preachers in a style closely akin to pentecostalism.

Mr. Jean Courvoisier was re-elected president of the federation and the Rev. Albert Nicolas will continue as general secretary until September 1977.

EPS

#### ASIAN CONFERENCE SETS ASSEMBLY THEME

Singapore (EPS) - "Jesus Christ in Asian Suffering and Hope" will be the theme of the Sixth Assembly of the Christian Conference of Asia scheduled for June 1977. Formally constituted on 14 May 1959, the CCA groups 16 national councils of churches and 78 member churches in a region stretching from Korea in the north to Pakistan in the west and New Zealand in the east.

EPS

#### INDONESIAN CHURCHES' SOCIAL MINISTRY

Jakarta (EPS) - The Indonesian Council of Churches recently concluded a seven-week training course to prepare 40 families to migrate from Jakarta to southeastern Celebes. The programme, sponsored by the Urban-Industrial Mission desk of the council, focused on agricultural training for the heads of families. The course included instruction on food preparation from roots, sweet potatoes and peanuts and methods of food preservation. During 1975 the council trained 95 heads of families or 224 people who wished to "transmigrate" to Sumatra and Celebes.

EPS

PEOPLE IN THE NEWS

Bishop Mortimer Arias, 52, the major plenary speaker on Evangelism at the Nairobi Assembly of the World Council of Churches, has resigned as leader of the Methodist Evangelical Church in Bolivia in an effort to solve a dispute involving the role of the Aymara Indians in the church. The Indians, who make up about half the 4,000 members, wanted more Bolivian-born leaders who speak their native language. Bishop Arias, a Uruguayan who took Bolivian citizenship, said he was elected seven years ago when there was no national leadership. Now there is and "it is time for it to assume responsibility", he said. The bishop will be replaced by three officers, one an Aymara, and he will return to the pastorate.

Dr. Jürgen Moltmann, one of the world's leading theologians, has been refused a visa to enter South Africa. He was due to arrive on February 25 for a three-week visit at the invitation of the South African Council of Churches (SACC), which had received many requests for him to address theological institutions. Commenting on the refusal to admit the Tübingen University professor renowned for his "theology of hope", the SACC said: "It merely confirms the impression that power here is in the hands of obscurantists with whom there can be no dialogue or reconciliation. If by barring Christian leaders from South Africa the Government believes it is isolating the Church here, it should take warning that it is at the same time isolating itself and the country as a whole".

Opening Canada's "Ten Days for World Development" programme, Archbishop E.W. Scott, Anglican primate of Canada and moderator of the WCC Central Committee, told an ecumenical audience of 1,200 assembled in the Roman Catholic cathedral: "There are five peaks visible of an iceberg that threatens to destroy mankind: the population explosion, increased risk of famine, the threat of war, depletion of non-renewable resources and the pollution crisis." Canadians have to stop looking for scapegoats and "blaming the other guy" for the world's mess. He said Canadian trade policies, export policies and overseas investments often "built up Canada at the expense of other, poorer countries".

The Rev. Toshitsuga Arai and the Rev. Harvey L. Perkins have arrived in Singapore to take up staff assignments with the Christian Conference of Asia. "Tosh", the new secretary for education, was formerly chaplain at International Christian University in Tokyo. Mr. Perkins, secretary for development and service, was formerly on the staff of the Commission on the Churches' Participation in Development of the World Council of Churches and prior to that was inter-church aid secretary for the Asian regional body.

Dr. Manas Buthelezi, 41, has been invited to become general secretary of the new Evangelical Lutheran Church in South Africa, a 500,000-member church formed last December by the union of four regional churches. Since last year he has been associate general secretary of the Federation of Evangelical Lutheran churches in Southern Africa.

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## Ecumenical Press Service

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BUTHELEZI/NAUDE STATEMENT CALLS  
FOR NATIONAL BLACK CONVENTIONS

Johannesburg, South Africa (EPS) - The time has come for South African blacks to organize themselves and act, Chief Gatsha Buthelezi, prime minister of the Kwa-Zulu Bantustan, told 16,000 people assembled at the Jubalani Amphitheatre in the black township of Soweto near here.

There was nothing to stop a number of black organizations from joining together in a national liberation movement, the chief said. Noting that some people might think when he talked of freedom and liberation that he was thinking of the Zulus only, Buthelezi said: "There is no Zulu freedom distinct from the black man's freedom in South Africa. Oppression has no ethnic boundaries".

Chief Buthelezi also rejected the government's homelands policy which proposes to fragment South Africa into independent African states based on the old tribal lands. "South Africa is one country", he said. "It has one destiny. Those who are attempting to divide the land of our birth are attempting to stem the tide of history".

He called for a series of national conventions through which blacks could act unilaterally in defining South Africa's policies.

His March 14 speech placed heavy emphasis on majority rule as the only solution. "It is this principle that is central to any question to do with southern Africa's politics", he said.

Chief Buthelezi said it was not too late for a white change of heart. He expected no "sudden spasm of benevolence towards blacks" but thought the whites could see the writing on the wall and realize that South Africa must move towards majority rule. "I implore the whites to turn away from the kind of future the government's present policies are creating", he said.

The chief's speech followed up a joint statement he and Dr. Beyers Naude, director of the Christian Institute for Southern Africa, had made on March 10 in which they called for a national convention in which the blacks of South Africa "can speak for themselves on the matter of foreign investment".

A major point in that statement was the contention that "a radical redistribution of wealth, land and political power is essential for the establishment of a stable and moral society in South Africa".

Over a century of "capitalistic paternalism" has seen men consistently dehumanised "the many blatantly crushed to produce wealth for the few and the whole of society designed to protect and intensify this naked exploitation of man by man". For this reason Chief Buthelezi and Dr. Naude felt "this capitalistic endeavour is doomed".

Both signatories had earlier hoped that foreign investors could assist change in South Africa. But Dr. Naude, in a personal note, said, "New facts have emerged on the relative ineffectiveness which foreign investment has had in achieving meaningful change towards a just society".

The two therefore stated unequivocally that "foreign investment in the central economy is devoid of all morality".

(more)

Since publication of the joint statement, prominent Christians in the USA and elsewhere have reacted as follows:

Dr. William P. Thompson, president of the National Council of Churches (USA), said: "I fully support the need for black South Africans to express their views on the issue of foreign investment and its relationship to the inhuman apartheid system. Persons will differ regarding the best means for seeking economic justice in South Africa, but I am convinced there can be no effective search for that justice... so long as the white minority retains all privilege -- economic, social and political".

Dr. Marion de Velder, general secretary, Reformed Church in America: "This important statement deserves priority attention by all Americans concerned about the US corporate connection to South Africa".

Prof. Gerhard Grohs, chairman of the Development Department of the Evangelical Church in German (EKD): "The statement has removed the last justification for the EKD Council's fruitless talks with West German industry about investments in South Africa".

Mr. Baldwin Sjollem, director of the WCC's Programme to Combat Racism: "We welcome this statement and note that it follows the same line already taken by the African National Congress of South Africa, the Pan-Africanist Congress, Coloured Labour Party, Black People's Convention, Black Renaissance Convention and the South African Students' Organization. It is also in line with the disinvestment position taken by the WCC Central Committee in Utrecht (1972). This statement should help the member churches to continue to implement with renewed vigour the WCC's call to disinvest. Foreign investments are bolstering up the apartheid system and the bantustans exist merely to facilitate the exploitation of the black majority. We also welcome the call for a national convention which should allow those now imprisoned or banned to participate fully in the discussions.

EPS

#### CHURCH DELEGATIONS REPORT ON VISITS TO SOUTH KOREA

Geneva (EPS) - Church delegations from the USA and the Federal Republic of Germany have visited South Korea in the last two weeks. Both visits served to establish closer links with the churches there and to clarify the situation of Christians arrested for speaking out on behalf of basic human freedoms.

The USA delegation went to Washington immediately upon its return to call upon Korean Ambassador Pryong Choon Haham and the State Department's Korea Desk.

At a press conference there on March 11 the delegation called on American churches and Christians to oppose the US Government's unquestioning support of President Park Chung Hee's regime. Dr. Robert V. Moss, head of the United Church of Christ, asked his own country to "work actively to free our brothers and sisters in Korea, not only from imprisonment but also from future oppression". The Korean ambassador was asked to "convey our concern to his government".

Ms. Peggy Billings, chairperson of the North America Coalition for Human Rights in Korea, said: "We have no choice but to call for a total review by the US Government of all its relationships with the government of the Republic of Korea". And Dr. Moss added: "We can encourage the State Department to be a little more aggressive in using its relationships with China and Russia to lessen the tension between North and South Korea".

(more)

Some 27 prominent Korean church people and leaders of the political opposition have been arrested since March 1 when a "Democratic Declaration to Save the Nation" was read at an ecumenical prayer service in Myong Dong Roman Catholic Cathedral in Seoul. Among those arrested were Prof. Lee Woo Jung, moderator of Korean Church Women United; Mr. Kim Dae Jung, who unsuccessfully challenged President Park in 1971; Prof. Moon Dong Whan and Prof. Ahn Byung Moo, dismissed professors of Hankuk Theological Seminary who were refused permission to attend the Nairobi Assembly. The Rev. Kim Kwan Suk, general secretary of the National Council of Churches, was arrested and then released. (A Swedish journalist just returned from Korea reported Ms Lee in hospital after nine days of interrogation without sleep.)

The declaration demanded that freedom of speech, assembly and publication be returned to the people; that parliamentary procedures be restored; and that the judiciary be independent.

Criticizing the government's concentration on the export industry as the focus for economic development, the statement said it resulted in a \$4 billion trade deficit in 1974 and 1975. "It was an illusion to achieve a huge modern industrialization upon the ruin of an agricultural economy", the declaration stated. "The economic system which is dependent upon foreign capital contained from the beginning the factor of corruption. If this present state of affairs continues, the breakdown of the economy is a matter of time. For a long time the present regime has lost any capacity to save the nation from economic bankruptcy. ...the regime has no other alternative but to assume responsibility and resign".

Dr. Heinz-Joachim Held, president of the foreign relations office of the Evangelical Church in Germany, gave an interview to INTERVOX in Geneva upon his return from Korea. He reported that some Christians feared the outbreak of war in Korea. At the same time they felt that a society with social justice and freedom would be the best defence against Communist invasion of South Korea.

Asked what churches overseas could do to help Korean Christians, Held said: "First there is need of real concrete and brotherly intercession; second there could be financial help to special projects; and third there should be more exchange of personnel -- fraternal workers in Korea and Koreans sent to other countries to establish real communication between churches and countries".

Meanwhile in Stockholm the Swedish Ecumenical Council asked the Korean ambassador for details of the arrest of Prof. Lee Woo Jung, who was due to attend a church meeting in Sweden in mid-March.

EPS

#### ATHLETES' TOUR OF SOUTH AFRICA OPPOSED

Christchurch, N.Z. (EPS) - Four leading New Zealand churchmen have asked the New Zealand Rugby Football Union to call off the tour of South Africa it plans this year. The appeal was made by Bishop Brian Ashby, chairman of the Roman Catholic Justice and Peace Commission; Bishop Allan Pyatt of Christchurch, chairman of the Anglican Public and Social Affairs Committee; the Rev. Frank Hanson, convener of the Methodist International Affairs Committee; and the Rev. John Murray, convener of the Presbyterian Public Questions Committee. They made the request "for the sake of true sportsmanship, of world relations, of our stance as Christians, and of attempting to bring about peaceful change in South Africa".

EPS

EDCS ENABLES CHURCHES  
TO SIDE WITH THE POOR

Geneva (EPS) - The World Council of Churches this week renewed its appeal to churches and other organizations to join the Ecumenical Development Cooperative Society (EDCS).

"It is highly encouraging that applications for membership are increasing almost daily", wrote WCC General Secretary Philip A. Potter in a printed prospectus distributed widely. Some 90 churches and church-related agencies on five continents have pledged a total of \$1 million. "Yet we are still far from meeting the minimum of \$5 million in share capital set as a condition for becoming operational by the Central Committee in West Berlin in August 1974", he noted.

Mr. Cyril J. Bennett of the Methodist Missionary Society of Great Britain is serving as full-time director ad interim to implement EDCS. Other members of the interim Board of Directors include the Earl of March, a company director in Great Britain; Prof. Christopher T. Kurien, Indian economist and author; Dr. H.G.E. Erfelt, Swedish bank manager; Prof. W. Albeda, banker and member of the Dutch Senate; and Ms. Florence Little, treasurer of the United Methodist Church's Board of Global Ministries.

The EDCS was legally incorporated last November 4 in Amersfoort, Netherlands.

Even though the cooperative has not yet become operative, it enables the churches to be on the side of the poor and encourage development, especially efforts towards social justice and self-reliance. It will finance agricultural projects, housing, small and medium-scale labour-intensive enterprises and handicrafts industries.

Each member of the society will have one vote, regardless of how many shares it owns. Under this system Third World shareholders will be able to participate fully in the choice of projects.

The chief beneficiaries will be the most deprived elements in the underdeveloped countries -- the 30% of the population who never receive any benefit from international aid.

Although membership in EDCS is limited to churches and organizations, individuals can encourage their own churches to become shareholders and help to create new organizations for channelling funds to EDCS. Direct donations can be used for training and project studies.

Dr. Potter urged prospective members to base their decision whether to join on three considerations:

- 1) "Do we have faith in the ability of the less privileged to overcome their poverty and do we have the will to make their struggle our own?"
- 2) "Do the aims and their framework give enough assurance as to EDCS' functioning?"
- 3) "Does the board of directors inspire enough confidence concerning the efficient performance of EDCS?"

Names of all 11 board members, together with answers to many questions about EDCS, are contained in the prospectus available in English, French and German from the Ecumenical Development Cooperative Society, Kon. Wilhelminalaan 5, Amersfoort, Netherlands.



MOZAMBIQUE CHURCHES FIND  
STATE OPEN TO DIALOGUE

Dar es Salaam, Tanzania (EPS) - Roman Catholic Archbishop Alexandre José Maria dos Santos of Maputo, Mozambique has categorically denied that the new Mozambican government prevents people from practising their religion and the churches from baptising infants.

In an interview with the Tanzania Catholic Secretariat's Information Service here, the first African archbishop of Mozambique said: "According to the Constitution every citizen in Mozambique has a right to practise or not to practise religion. No clause in the Constitution states that infant baptism is forbidden. I know of some groups which call themselves dynamists who go around telling people that infant baptism is banned, but we baptise infants and so far we have never been warned against the practice".

Meanwhile President Samora Machel of Mozambique has stated that the dialogue between his government and the church leaders "is open". He made this comments to a delegation from Protestant and Roman Catholic churches and the Christian Council of Mozambique which visited him on January 31. He welcomed assurances that all Christians in Mozambique were ready to join others in rebuilding the country.

In a press interview given later in Nairobi, the Rev. Isaac Mahlalela, general secretary of the Christian Council of Mozambique, and the Rev. Isaias Funzamo, head of the Presbyterian Church of Mozambique, reported the church delegation left the President's office "very happy and very encouraged".

There was no need for the government and the church to fight each other, President Machel said. The rebuilding of the country required the participation of every citizen.

At his request each church is now preparing a document outlining its history and current activities. According to Mr. Mahlalela, the Presbyterian and Catholic churches and the Christian Council have completed their documents and will present them to President Machel "as soon as we obtain an audience". President Machel indicated the materials would be shared with the Central Committee of FRELIMO, the governing party, at its next meeting.

Church leaders have expressed the hope that these documents will form the basis of the government's future policy towards the Church in Mozambique.

In his first meeting with the church delegation President Machel explained that the government had nationalized church hospitals and schools so that they could fulfil the needs of all Mozambicans and not just a few.

Commenting on this action, Mr. Funzamo said: "We agreed with the government, for we knew that in the past colleges, schools and hospitals, even those belonging to the Church, were very expensive and no Africans could afford to use them". He explained that doctors who came to the country to serve white people had now left. This has created a shortage of doctors.

Mr. Funzamo and Mr. Mahlalela reported that since Angolan independence President Machel had not repeated previous criticism of those churches which accepted outside support.

WARC DOCUMENT AFFIRMS HUMAN  
RIGHTS, OPPOSES OPPRESSION

Geneva (EPS) - The Christian mandate to "stand up for those whose fundamental rights and freedom are robbed" and to oppose all forms of oppression is affirmed in a just-concluded five-year study of the World Alliance of Reformed Churches (WARC).

Entitled "A Theological Basis of Human Rights", the study was initiated at the 1970 assembly of the WARC in Nairobi. It was approved for recommendation to the 143 member churches of the alliance in the form of a two-part statement consisting of theological guidelines and their practical implications.

Final wording was drafted at a recent consultation in London attended by 21 church representatives from 16 countries. A paper presented by Dr. Jürgen Moltmann of Tübingen University, including a summary and analysis of findings sent in over the past five years by member churches all over the world, was officially adopted as an appendix.

One of the basic principles acknowledged in the document is the task of Christians to make their distinct contribution in the light of their faith "to reflect the covenant of God's faithfulness to his people and the glory of his love for the church and the world". In uncompromising terms, the statement declared that "no earthly authority can legitimately deny or suspend the right and dignity of being human". Although a minority in the world, Christians represent "that which the Christian faith believes to be true for all humanity" and they have therefore "inescapable responsibilities" towards the wider society, the more so since "no human form of government is perfect".

Despite setbacks and frustrations in the world today, the document said, "the Church is commanded to bear witness to the liberating power of Christ's cross and resurrection". Christian theology can contribute to the theory and practice of human rights by "ministering the distinctive wholeness of the Gospel bequeathed to the Church; the word of reconciliation and grace".

In the struggle for human rights, there is no way to avoid conflict particularly between the rich and powerful and the poor and powerless, the statement warned. While the message of reconciliation, which should neither mean appeasement nor neutrality, does not obviate these conflicts, "it is the basic promise of the Gospel that, in spite of the bitterness of the struggle and the suffering it entails, the final goal is the reconciled community within the one family of God".

In relation to society and culture, the statement called for exposing "the root causes of the brutal and subtle violations of human rights which are increasing rather than decreasing". The tendency of one group to dominate another is often rationalized and even "justified on ideological, religious, racial and even sexual grounds insofar as women suffer serious disabilities in comparison with men in most societies", it was pointed out. The churches were urged to investigate these possible problems since "those who are suffering are often the most inarticulate".

The Christian Church was called upon at all times to appeal for freedom of conscience and religious practice for all. "This is the necessary implication of that freedom which it desires for itself, not in order to indulge in self-centred privilege but in order to be of service to the society of which it is part", the statement declared. By engaging in this service, Christians in situations of relative freedom will express their solidarity with those experiencing oppression.

(more)

In relation to the State, the document noted that structures created by human beings are in constant danger of becoming "self-perpetuating and self-fulfilling and of becoming idols - in a biblical sense". It observed that the Reformed tradition makes specific provision for the "right and even the duty" to resist when human governments violate the purpose for which they were appointed. "The Christian community must be willing to become an offence to the powers in its support of the powerless and deprived", because "Christians resistance against oppressive powers is grounded in Christ's offering of his life for the redemption of the world (Phil. 2)".

The document said active and constructive resistance, passive resistance and civil disobedience, suffering and silent resistance, and martyrdom are among the different forms that discipleship of Christ may take.

The document suggested the need for a further Human Rights Covenant on environmental rights. It should be concerned with the responsible use of land and nature, and the capital resources of the world, as well as the limitation within appropriate bounds of the development of industrial plants. This together with the Covenant on Human Rights of 1966 would function as "continuing critiques of unjust situations", including the gratification of immediate needs at the expense of those who will come after us.

WARC member churches were urged to direct special attention in their own areas to the rights of the individual; the rights of society as a whole; the right to religious freedom; the rights relating to the environment; and the rights of generations to come.

EPS

#### LWF CONSULTATION PLANS WORLDWIDE SUPPORT FOR NAMIBIAN INDEPENDENCE

Wuppertal (EPS) - Increased support for the Namibian people in their struggle for independence was planned at a recent international consultation called by the Lutheran World Federation (LWF).

Participants drafted a comprehensive strategy, calling for the worldwide coordination of efforts on the part of all Lutheran church bodies and related mission societies. Programmes range from legal protection against repressive harassment under South African law to the creation of additional educational opportunities for young Namibians at home and abroad.

The consultation recommended to the LWF the establishment of a permanent Fund for Legal Aid "as an expression of the Church's concern for both individual human beings and the cause of social justice". This was an obvious reference to the current trial in Swakopmund of six Christians, one of whom is charged with indirect involvement in the murder last August of Filemon Elifas, chief minister of the Ovambo Homeland. Oppressive measures used by the South African authorities under the pretext of investigating the murder included the detention of many persons for prolonged periods and the use of torture, it was reported.

Churches in Namibia were encouraged to expand facilities for higher education to meet the problem of young people moving into exile partly because of the lack of study opportunities within the country. The consultation endorsed a plan for correspondence courses to be directed from study centers in Keetmanshoop, Windhoek, Walvis Bay, Tsumeb and Oshigambo/Ongwediva. The churches were further

(more)

urged to notify the LWF of the type of scholarship most needed for students who have exhausted existing educational facilities in Namibia. Churches elsewhere were requested to support such scholarships in their countries. Finland, it was mentioned, has already 22 Namibian students and Sweden six. Several are studying in England and one in USA.

The LWF and the World Council of Churches were asked to encourage their member churches' active participation in the annual International Week of Solidarity with the People of Namibia to be held the last week of October.

The worldwide dissemination of accurate information about Namibia, illegally occupied by South Africa, pressure on foreign-owned corporations to cease exploiting natural resources and the contract labour system, the need to discourage governments from recognizing the so-called Constitutional Conference launched by the South African Government but instead to support the UN Council for Namibia and the UN Fund for Namibia, were discussed as part of the new strategy.

Continued support for SWAPO (South-West Africa People's Organization) as "the most effectively organized and internationally recognized movement for the liberation of Namibia" was acknowledged. SWAPO's participation in the Namibia National Convention (NNC), a recent coalition of anti-apartheid organizations inside the country, was welcomed. The NNC "does much within the restrictions imposed upon it by the South African Government to raise political awareness and unity among the blacks in Namibia", it was said.

The Rev. Dr. Lukas de Vries, president of the United Evangelical Lutheran Church of South-West Africa, chaired the consultation, attended by 40 church people from 10 countries. He warned that a break-down of the constitutional talks

initiated by the South African Government is imminent unless the participation of political parties under the umbrella of the NNC is accepted.

Opposition to apartheid policies has led most black churches into a close working relationship, which may soon bring about the formation of an Ecumenical Council, it was further reported. There have been joint approaches to the authorities by Lutheran, Anglican and Roman Catholic churches, and with Baptists in the north, and Methodists as well as Congregationalists in the south.

An overview of the situation in Northern Namibia was given by the Rev. Petrus Shipena of the Evangelical Lutheran Ovambokavango Church. He reported the church opposed to violence "from wherever it may come". But, distressed by continued oppression and injustices, the church is committed to justice and freedom for all and sees SWAPO as the most important factor on the road to achieving freedom.

Other speakers included Peter H. Katjavivi, SWAPO representative in the UK and Western Europe, who acknowledged the important role played by the churches in the liberation of the Namibian people. He said that SWAPO sees armed struggle as the only alternative to a peaceful settlement, but remains willing to exhaust all means to reach a peaceful solution to the illegal South African occupation of Namibia.

A "letter of solidarity" was sent to Bishop Leonard Auala of the Evangelical Lutheran Ovambokavanga Church in Ovamboland who was unable to attend because his passport was not renewed.

# EPS

## Ecumenical Press Service

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NEEDS OF GUATEMALA'S POOR  
IMPRESS QUAKE INVESTIGATOR

Geneva (EPS) - Last month's earthquake in Guatemala exposed a situation of economic injustice that has plagued the country since time immemorial. Like an x-ray revealing a hidden illness, it laid bare the plight of poor people living in adobe houses totally destroyed by the quake, said the Rev. Gerson Meyer, a staff member of the World Council of Churches. Mr. Meyer went to Guatemala on a pastoral visit on behalf of Dr. Philip Potter, the general secretary, and the Commission on Inter-Church Aid, Refugee and World Service.

After visiting six areas hardest hit by the earthquake, Mr. Meyer reported: "Those who really suffered were the poor people and a large proportion of these are Indians". Estimates of those left homeless run as high as 1 million people.

Aid given by the churches must be responsive to the total human needs of these people, he advocated. At this moment those in the rural areas are as anxious to sow their crops as to rebuild their dwellings. Next September they will have nothing to eat if they do not plant now. Yet they must restore at least one room of their dwellings before the heavy rains come in May.

"Above all we must make sure the people themselves have a voice in determining what type of aid is given", said the Brazilian clergyman.

After visits to Chimaltenango, Antigua, Chimazat, St. Pedro Ayampuc, Paramos and slum areas in Guatemala City most affected, he reported the most pressing needs as follows: housing, medical supplies, road reconstruction, agricultural assistance, care for orphans and aid to those who wander into the city because their tenuous ties to the countryside were destroyed by the quake.

The WCC's Commission on Inter-Church Aid, Refugee and World Service has channeled cash contributions totalling \$260,000 and material aid valued at \$250,000 to Guatemala. The most recent gift was \$20,000 to help the Costa Rican YMCA care for 1,000 Guatemalan orphans until their relatives can take them.

Meyer found two committees of Guatemalan Christians assisting 'quake victims. The Evangelical Committee for Emergency Assistance (CEPA) groups 37 independent churches of mainly evangelical persuasion. The Ecumenical Emergency Committee includes individuals from both Protestant and Roman Catholic churches who came together the day of the 'quake to collect food, clothing and money for the victims. Meyer met with both groups and also with Church World Service, the aid arm of the National Council of Churches (USA), which has an ongoing programme in Guatemala and was on the scene immediately dispensing aid on behalf of the world church community.

Many European church agencies have already sent representatives to Guatemala as evidence of their willingness to assist the country's reconstruction. CICARWS hopes to bring into a creative relationship the desires of the Guatemalans with those of outsiders wishing to assist them.

Meyer was particularly impressed with the work of the ecumenical team in St. Pedro Ayampuc which for four years has been helping the people define their own needs and work to meet them. In a meeting with the people he learned they needed a housing scheme but wanted to continue programmes of health, agricultural cooperatives and education. "In their minds everything hangs together, it is part of a total development effort", he reported.

(more)

He was also glad to see the quake had stimulated ecumenical cooperation. Priest and pastor joined in distributing the elements at communion, they prayed with the people in the town square and then all talked together for three hours about how to rebuild their community. They also made it clear they would accept outside aid only if they were free to determine how the money would be spent.

EPS

## FRESH AID FOR CHILE SOUGHT

Geneva (EPS) - This week the World Council of Churches pledged to seek up to \$1.2 million for social assistance and human rights programmes being carried out by the newly organized Vicariate of Solidarity of the Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Santiago, Chile.

The funds are being sought via the 1976 project list of the Commission on Inter-Church Aid, Refugee and World Service within the larger programme of Human Rights in Latin America, which supports work in 12 different countries.

According to the Rev. Charles Harper, human rights resources officer for Latin America, the new Vicariate is continuing the programme of legal assistance and social service to families of those detained for their political opposition to the military regime. It also provides lawyers for those who lose their jobs for political reasons and provides workshops for those unemployed but willing to work. A particularly large financial outlay is required for the 300 parish soup kitchens each assuring 100-150 children with at least one meal daily. Five dispensaries treated 70,000 patients last year, he reported.

The Vicariate cooperates with FASIC an ecumenical group which helps convicted prisoners wishing to leave the country.

Figures provided by Mr. Harper show 185 new detentions per month since October 1975, 950 persons missing more than two months, 2,400 sentenced to prison, 1,400 detained and in process of being brought to trial and 1,000 detained with no charge brought.

EPS

## GERMAN CHURCH COMMUNICATOR DIES

Frankfurt (EPS) - Dr. Robert Geisendörfer, director of the Council for Evangelical Publicity, died here February 25 following a heart attack. He was 65 years of age.

Dr. Philip Potter, general secretary of the World Council of Churches, paid tribute to Dr. Geisendörfer as "a pioneer in Christian communication in the post-war years, both in the press and electronic media ... not only in Germany but throughout the world. He will long be remembered for his wise, persevering and indefatigable efforts in setting up and keeping alive the World Association for Christian Communication (WACC). Without him WACC would not have been born or survived".

Following 10 years in the pastorate Dr. Geisendörfer became head of the Evangelical Press Association of Bavaria in 1947 and thus began a long career of serving German church communication needs. At his death he was chairman of the administrative councils of the Evangelical TV Production Company (EIKON) and Matthias Films Ltd., as well as Radio Voice of the Gospel in Addis Ababa. He was treasurer of the WACC and represented the Evangelical Church in Germany on interregional broadcasting bodies such as ZDF, Deutschlandfunk and Deutsche Welle.

EPS

FUTURE OF JEWISH/CHRISTIAN  
RELATIONS DISCUSSED IN JERUSALEM

Jerusalem (EPS) - Issues for future consultation between representatives of the World Council of Churches (WCC) and the International Jewish Committee were pinpointed last week, together with the machinery for making such discussions possible.

While the two groups have been meeting for several years, this was the first session to be held in Jerusalem. Present were six representatives of the WCC and five Jewish organizations: World Jewish Congress, American Jewish Committee, B'nai B'rith, the Synagogue Council of America and the Jewish Council in Israel for Inter-religious Consultations.

After hearing reports on the WCC's Fifth Assembly in Nairobi and the recent Brussels meeting of Jewish communities dealing with the problems of Soviet Jewry, the Jerusalem meeting focused on two topics for possible future study: "Relations between churches and the Jewish people in the wider context of the human community" and "Christian and Jewish traditions about creation, in relation to science and technology".

(A highlight of the Nairobi Assembly was biologist Charles Birch's call for a new relationship between God, Humanity and Nature. And Section III put heavy emphasis on the search for community by people of all faiths, cultures and ideologies.)

Following the two-day meeting (24-27 February) the whole group spent the weekend at the religious Kibbutz Lavi. By participating in the Sabbath observances they sought to experience the religious meaning of Sabbath when people surrender to the rhythm of Nature in a day of rest following six days of labour. The group was quick to see that the relation between Nature, Humanity and God could become a common concern of other faiths as well.

Before concluding their session the Liaison Committee of the WCC and the International Jewish Committee agreed that encounter should proceed on several levels. These include exchanging information regularly on political and social issues with particular emphasis on human rights including religious liberty, and interpreting to each other the religious views of each community on fundamental issues.

The Liaison Committee may set up task forces to deal with specific long-term issues. It can also develop procedures for common action in times of crisis. Groups of scholars and other experts may be asked to clarify issues thought to needing sustained study.

These recommendations will be considered by the appropriate committees of the WCC meeting later this year.

The purpose of the Jewish-Christian dialogue is to improve the conditions for living together in the context of wider community, to deepen mutual understanding and the sharing of concerns, and to combat prejudice and prevent misconceptions wherever possible.

(more)



The WCC was represented by Prof. Krister Stendahl, Dr. Stanley Samartha, Dr. Lukas Vischer, Mrs. Ellen Flesseman-van Leer, Dr. Franz von Hammerstein, Rev. C. Schoneveld. The Jewish delegation was composed of Rabbi Joseph Lookstein, Dr. G. Riegner, Dr. N. Lerner, Mr. Z. Shuster, Dr. B. Resnikoff, Dr. Karlikow, Dr. L. Ehrlich, Dr. Joseph Lichten, Dr. T. Friedman, Rabbi H. Siegman, Rabbi Balfour Brickner, Prof. S. Talmon, Prof. Z. Werblowski, Rabbi Jacob Cohen, Mr. Joseph Emanuel.

EPS

ZOTO LAMENTS EXCLUSION  
FROM VANCOUVER JURY

Manila (EPS) - The people's organization known as ZOTO (Zone One Tondo Organization) has expressed deep disappointment that its representatives were prevented from going to Vancouver to help select a design for a human settlement for Tondo.

As soon as the International Architectural Foundation announced a competition with the winning design to be exhibited at the UN Conference on Human Settlements in Vancouver next June, ZOTO began efforts to gain representation on the jury. The site for the "model human settlement" is in the area where ZOTO has been organizing the residents for several years with active assistance from the churches.

On January 20 Mrs. Trinidad Herrera was notified she was to go to Vancouver as technical staff for one of the judges, Gen. Gaudencio Tobias. Two days later the military intelligence appeared at her home with a warrant for her arrest, but she had gone into hiding. Her alternate, Mr. Eduardo Guazon, was arrested the same day and is still held incommunicado at the military detention centre at Camp Crame.

Officers of ZOTO strongly protested to the International Architectural Foundation in a letter addressed to its president, Mr. Hughes Blake, a copy of which has belatedly reached Geneva. It says in part:

"If housing plans are really for the people's welfare, why aren't people allowed to participate in deciding their future? Isn't that the principle underlying the competition? And how can we express our views when none of our representatives are at the judging of designs in Vancouver?"

The letter also informed the Architectural Foundation that some 3,000 families had already been ejected from the Tondo area, according to the National Housing Authority. An additional 2,000 are due to be moved from different slums to make way for the government's "beautification programme".

To combat continuing demolitions, 67 organizations of slum dwellers living on riverbanks, tidelands, railroad rights-of-way etc. have banded together in the Alliance of Slum Dwellers in Greater Manila. At their founding convention on January 25 they demanded people's participation in planning for human settlements, so that the needs and aspirations of the people themselves can be adequately represented.

EPS

GOD CHARTING HIGHWAY OF FREEDOM:  
AACC'S "ALEXANDRIA CONFESSION"

Cairo (EPS) - Adoption of a historic document entitled "The Alexandria Confession" marked a high point of the General Committee of the All Africa Conference of Churches (AACC), which met here 18 to 26 February. More than 100 participants from 114 member churches in 33 African countries participated.

The document affirms that God, through the continuing work of Christ, "is charting his highway of freedom from Alexandria to the Cape of Good Hope".

The 1½ page document confesses the sin of African Christians in speaking against evil when convenient, for siding with oppressive forces in their own societies, for condemning evils done by foreigners and condoning the same evils "by our own people, for turning a blind eye to injustice in our societies; in short, for being a stumbling block for many".

In the face of "enslaving forces and abuse of human rights in independent Africa", the Alexandria Confession calls for a more comprehensive understanding of liberation.

The first reading of the statement came before 2,000 members of the Coptic Church of Egypt who thronged St. Mark's Church in Alexandria, the ancient cradle of Egyptian Christianity. After praising God for his revelation in Jesus Christ and his constant presence among his people through the Holy Spirit, the statement expresses African churches' concern for economic justice, the total liberation of men and women from every form of oppression and exploitation, and for peace in Africa. Also mentioned is the churches' search for authentic responses to Christ as Lord over the whole of their lives.

In other actions the AACC General Committee:

- condemned South Africa's invasion of Angola and the threat of similar intervention elsewhere in Africa;
- called on South Africa "to begin dismantling the structures of apartheid immediately";
- pledged fullest support for the legitimate aspirations of the Palestinian people to achieve their national and human rights and urged their participation, through their "national entity", in the Geneva Conference on the Middle East;
- called for closer collaboration between the AACC and the Middle East Conference of Churches (MECC) including joint studies and action on relevant issues, as well as dialogue and interaction with Moslem brothers and sisters in the Afro-Arab world;
- requested the Organization of African Unity to grant observer status to the AACC.

A three-person committee was appointed to make a pastoral visit to the Ethiopian Orthodox Church and the Provisional Administrative Military Council to seek clarification of the situation following the removal of Patriarch Abuna Theophilus (EPS No. 6). The committee includes Bishop Samuel of Egypt, the Rev. Harry Henry of Dahomey and Canon Burgess Carr, AACC general secretary.

The General Committee also hailed the independence of Mozambique and Angola and urged the governments and peoples of these two countries to "unite...to advance the frontiers of national liberation, justice and freedom as far as the Cape of Good Hope".

GRADUATE SCHOOL BIDS FAREWELL  
TO "ECUMENICAL AMBASSADORS"

Geneva (EPS) - The Graduate School of Ecumenical Studies at Chateau de Bossey near here held graduation exercises for 45 students (one-third women) from 25 countries on 26 February. On hand for the ceremonies were the World Council's Honorary President W.A. Visser't Hooft, General Secretary Philip A. Potter and Prof. Robert Martin-Achard, all of whom underlined the importance of Bossey as an instrument of ecumenical education at the service of the churches.

In his address Prof. Martin-Achard stressed that ecumenism was not synonymous with peaceful coexistence. "It is not a juxtaposition of our differences, but a movement to rediscover the unity which was given us at the beginning", he said. The problem is to advance "together towards the same Christ from whom we come". Bossey has given students a chance to come out of the ghetto of customs and traditions and to discover the true dimensions of the Church. "I hope that your churches will be able to count on you as witnesses of the ecumenism you have discovered here", he concluded.

Dr. Potter spoke of ecumenism which is not a coexistence but a "pro-existence in suffering and hope". Recalling that at Nairobi the churches' delegates recognized all the complexities and tragedies of the present world, he emphasized that the assembly also made delegates aware they should be committed by acts and not simply by thought and opinions about what needs to be done. This is what the ecumenical movement is all about, he stressed. Addressing those who now return to their churches which stand in need of renewal, the general secretary expressed the hope that they would feel themselves members of a community of hope.

Prof. John Mbiti, Bossey's director, thought the theme of this year's 4½ month graduate school ("Experiencing God in Suffering and Hope") had been unhappily illustrated through the situation in which the Ecumenical Institute now finds itself.

"The threat of the closing of Bossey at the end of June has been a painful experience of suffering", he said. The fact that one integral part of the WCC could so suddenly reach the "boundaries of its existence" shows how fragile the ecumenical movement still is and how great the need for deeper commitment on the part of churches and Christians. He noted that "our suffering has given birth throughout the world to a renewed interest in the Institute. The Fifth Assembly gave new hope; groups and churches expressed moral and financial support.

"In many respects the future remains uncertain, but we must go forward with courage and determination, convinced as we are that the Institute is a unique instrument in God's hands for the training of future ecumenical generations".

In Mbiti's opinion, the students this year formed a company of pilgrims reflecting the pilgrim character of the Church today with its suffering and hope. "There are many signs that the Church could be about to enter a period of intense suffering, especially in many of the countries from which this year's students come", he said. (A record of 65% of the student body came from Asia, Africa and Latin America.) "Even if it hasn't been possible to create among students a conscious awareness of personal or national suffering and hope", Prof. Mbiti nonetheless thought "Bossey has perhaps made us ecumenical ambassadors of suffering and hope".

Since its founding in 1946 the Ecumenical Institute has organized seminars and courses for 150 groups (averaging 25 persons each). The winter Graduate School has attracted some 1,000 students from all continents. In addition the institute is available for those wishing to organize their own conferences.

PENTECOST 1976

Message from the Presidents of the  
World Council of Churches

When Our Lord told his disciples about the coming of the Holy Spirit he said: "He will glorify me, for he will take what is mine and declare it to you." (John 16:14). The same thought is expressed in his words: "He will bear witness to me." (John 15:26).

Now this is precisely what happened on the day of Pentecost in Jerusalem when all the apostles were gathered in one place. They spoke in different tongues about the mighty works of God, that is to say they proclaimed the great central facts of the history of salvation: the coming of Christ, his life and teaching, his death on the Cross, his resurrection. The men and women who heard and believed this message became a new community held together by a common faith and by a new creative way of life. The Christian Church was born.

The Holy Spirit continues to work in this way. He makes Christ known to those who did not know him. He sustains and renews the faith of the believers. He leads them back to the source of their faith. He gives Christians courage and power to witness for Christ. He helps them to discover in the tensions and struggles of our time what is God's will for his people. He binds them together in a fellowship which transcends all human divisions.

This is also what the Holy Spirit did to us at the World Council Assembly in Nairobi. Once again we were brought face to face with the central truths of the Gospel. We were shown new ways of living in obedience to our Lord. And thus we were enabled to stay together in spite of the forces which can so easily divide us.

When we open our lives to the Spirit we will also be able to make a decisive contribution to humankind's great struggle for survival and for a world of justice, freedom and peace. We have been warned that our world must change its values if it is to avoid catastrophe. The Spirit who glorifies Christ and all that he stands for will send us the true priorities.

Let us therefore repeat the prayer which was used in the closing service of the Assembly at Nairobi:

Holy Spirit of God  
fill us with confidence  
and make us available;  
teach us to pray  
and to hear the moanings of men;

(over)

help us interpret  
the signs of the times,  
and prepare us  
for the Kingdom of God  
each day and forever.

Amen

The Presidents of the World Council of Churches:

Hon. President: (Rev. Dr.) W.A. Visser't Hooft - Geneva, Switzerland

(Mrs.) Justice A.R. Jiagge - Accra, Ghana

(Prof.) José Miguez-Bonino, - Buenos Aires, Argentina

(His Eminence) Nikodim - Moscow, U.S.S.R.

(Dr.) T.B. Simatupang - Jakarta-Pusat, Indonesia

(Most Rev.) Olof Sundby - Uppsala, Sweden

(Dr.) Cynthia Wedel - Alexandria, Virginia, U.S.A.



# Ecumenical Press Service

"OIKOUMENE" GENEVA - TEL. 33 34 00 TELEX 23 423 OIK CH - 150 ROUTE DE FERNEY, 1211 GENEVA 20 SWITZERLAND

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WCC EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE ACTS  
ON FINANCE, PUBLIC ISSUES

Geneva, March 29 (EPS) - A new seven-year cycle in the annals of the World Council of Churches was inaugurated last week with the first meeting of the new 19-member Executive Committee.

Under the genial moderatorship of Archbishop Edward (Ted) Scott of Toronto, Canada, this "core group" of the much larger Central Committee approved a 1976 budget for the Council, took note of disturbing developments in Lebanon, gave a temporary reprieve to the Ecumenical Institute ("Bossey") and the New York Office of the WCC and began the intricate process of shaping a programme for the next period.

General Secretary Philip A. Potter explained that since last December staff had been engaged in compiling a list of proposals made by various sections and hearings at the Fifth Assembly at Nairobi, Kenya. The Executive Committee took a look at these, together with an assessment of how Press and participants had viewed that ecumenical event.

Dr. Potter also reported that, carrying out an Assembly directive, he had recently sent a letter to all member churches in countries that signed the Helsinki Declaration asking them four questions: how were they studying the statement; what practices in their country contradicted the "spirit or letter" of the declaration; how could their church aid in implementing the statement; and what could international, ecumenical organizations do to help the process.

A small, informal consultation will be held in July, he said, to consider the churches' answers and advise on what further steps the WCC should take.

After hearing that the Council had closed 1975 financial accounts without a deficit through the use of special reserves and other non-recurring funds, the Executive Committee authorized a 1976 budget of SwF 6,260,000. As previously anticipated, this will require a reduction in travel and meetings, foregoing a salary increase, making cuts in the appropriations for the Ecumenical Institute, the New York Office and the Communication Department and leaving two posts unfilled in the Faith and Order and Church and Society sub-units.

Although the 1976 budget makes no provision for a New York secretariat for the Commission of the Churches on International Affairs, it was agreed that special funds could be solicited for this purpose.

The Executive Committee welcomed the news that a small staff group working on emergency funding for the Ecumenical Institute had secured special gifts from the Swiss churches, two German church organizations and the French Reformed Church. This will cover the 1976 deficit.

The New York Office also reported that it hoped to balance its 1976 budget as a result of anticipated savings, the use of reserves and efforts by a new fund-raising committee.

Dr. Potter announced that a letter would soon go to each member church enclosing a single global budget for the Council and asking an increased contribution from each.

(more)

This was necessary, he indicated, because the prospects for 1977 are far from bright. The Central Committee when it meets in August will have to see what resources are in prospect to meet 1977 needs.

The committee expressed grave concern about the fate of 2,100 missing Greek Cypriots, who disappeared after the 1974 coup against Archbishop Makarios and whose families are asking assistance in finding them. The WCC staff was thanked for efforts in their behalf and urged to give the matter priority since "people's lives are at stake". The committee encouraged further assistance to the UN and its agencies in their efforts to trace these persons.

A resolution on Lebanon expressed "deep compassion and sympathy" with the people suffering from renewed fighting. It appealed to all parties to renounce violence and to spare lives through finding negotiated solutions. Member churches were thanked for their support for humanitarian assistance administered through the WCC in collaboration with the Middle East Christian Council and asked to intensify this support.

The Christian Medical Commission, which promotes innovative approaches to health care on the part of church-related programmes, was designated a sub-unit of the Programme Unit on Justice and Service. Its retiring director, Mr. James McGilvray, received a vote of gratitude for his work in creating and sustaining the commission.

As its contribution to priority-setting for the Council, the Executive Committee offered several recommendations to the Review Committee, which meets May 9-13 under the chairmanship of Archbishop Karekin Sarkissian. It said: consider concentrating on a few "themes" or issues that touch more than one unit of the WCC, give prominence to a "regional approach", examine overlapping and strengthen the staff of the Programme Unit on Education and Renewal.

Another recommendation asked the programme on the family to make room for the concerns of the child.

The general secretary was asked to clarify the scope and suggested title for a programme on Militarism requested by the Nairobi Assembly. He is also to appoint a small reflection group to further the assembly's concern for spirituality.

The Executive Committee expressed its sincere desire to continue the Ecumenical Institute as an integral part of the WCC. It authorized Dr. Potter to "exercise maximum efforts to secure new sources of financial support" to cover the annual budget of SwF 1 million, and to engage in conversations with new partners to make its summer programme "more comprehensive". In addition to the 4½-month Graduate School and short-term summer courses, it suggested extension work as a way of facilitating ecumenical education on other continents.

There was also a general consensus that a WCC office in the USA is still needed. A final decision on the amount to be paid by Geneva was deferred until August, when a list of its agreed functions will be ready.

Both Moderator Scott and Dr. Potter voiced deep gratitude for the great contribution made to the life of the World Council by Mr. Frank Northam. After 30 years as organizer and executive of the Department of Finance and Central Services, he will retire on June 30. Dr. Potter spoke of his "extraordinary devotion and total commitment to the work".

EPS



CHURCHES PLAN "PRESENCE"  
AT NGOS' HABITAT FORUM

Geneva (EPS) - The Un Conference on Human Settlements - "Habitat" - will draw representative of 140 governments to Vancouver, Canada, the latter part of May. Many view this as a showcase for demonstrating, through the use of film and other means, how they have solved the problems of urban living.

Concurrently nongovernmental organisations (NGOs) accredited to the UN Economic and Social Council are holding their own Habitat Forum. In five converted aeroplane hangers at Jericho Beach they are scheduling panel discussions and debates on how to improve the living conditions of the most deprived groups in both developing and developed countries.

About 12 church bodies have registered as observers at the UN meeting. And three major US denominations have indicated they will be bringing sizable groups of ethnic community developers (blacks, Hispanic and Native Americans) to this "world's fair on human settlements".

Learning of their interest, the World Council of Churches' Programme Unit on Faith and Witness agreed to coordinate arrangements for bringing 50 people from Asia, Africa and Latin America to Vancouver. These will be people engaged in local struggles for settlements that are truly humane. They will come from 25 or 30 cities where church-related action groups are challenging the process of government planning without the participation of the people most affected, criticising government policies that resettle urban squatters far from any means of livelihood, developing new approaches to urban housing and questioning the effects of multi-storied housing on family and community life.

The churches have been granted a meeting room seating 200 people as part of the NGO Habitat Forum. Each afternoon between May 31 and June 11 they will give a platform to Third Worlders sharing their experiences and discussing the Church's contribution to human settlement issues. Experts from government teams will be invited in for dialogue, and exhibits will show what people's groups have done.

Speaking for the WCC's Urban/Industrial Mission programme, the Rev. George Todd said: "We in UIM question the idea that you can solve urban housing and other problems by rational, technical solutions. The stumbling block is not mainly technical but political. No amount of planning for people will bring solutions for the worst off. Therefore various WCC desks have focused on empowerment - helping the people themselves develop structures through which they can speak and act on their own problems. They participate in the planning, decision-making and administration of programmes having to do with human settlement issues".

This is not one element among many, according to Mr. Todd, but a pre-requisite for humane settlements. And the churches in a number of local communities have been working with people's groups and movements to make this happen. At Vancouver they will share their experiences.

Two women active among squatters in Manila and Nairobi have been invited to address plenary sessions of the Habitat Forum. They are Mrs. Jessica Fernandez White, director of the Department of Economic Justice of the National Council of Churches (USA) for several years an organizer for Zone One Tondo Organization in Manila, and Ms. Donna Haldane, now with the Site and Service Department of the World Bank. She was for a number of years on the staff of the National Christian Council in Kenya working in the Mathare Valley Squatter Colony in Nairobi.

(more)

Christians planning to attend Habitat are invited to notify Mr. Louis Hodge of the Office of Community Development, United Methodist Church, 475 Riverside Drive, New York City. Local arrangements for church visitors are being handled by Dr. Terry Anderson, professor of social ethics at Vancouver School of Theology. Ms Roberta Bellows is chairing the hospitality committee of the Vancouver Council of Churches.

US church delegations are being organized by the United Methodists, the United Presbyterian Church and Community Office and Lutheran Social Services, serving Lutheran Churches in California.

EPS

#### WCC SURVEY PLANNED ON RELIGIOUS LIBERTY IN "HELSINKI AGREEMENT STATES"

Geneva (EPS) - The general secretary of the World Council of Churches, Dr. Philip A. Potter, has requested member churches in states which have signed the Helsinki Declaration to assess progress made in implementing the agreement, especially its human rights and religious liberty clauses.

Dr. Potter based his request on a decision of the WCC Fifth Assembly in Nairobi last December that the question of religious liberty be the subject of intensive consultations with these member churches and that a first report be presented at the Central Committee meeting in August this year.

The WCC lists 132 of its 286 member churches in 28 of the 35 states which signed the agreement.

The chief executive of the World Council said a small informal exploratory consultation, limited to 30 persons, will be called July 24-28 under the auspices of the Commission of the Churches on International Affairs to assess progress in the last six months and to determine future steps. Though not every church can be represented at this meeting, Dr. Potter said, each church should participate in preparations for it. He suggested that churches report how the Helsinki Declaration is studied in their constituencies, identify practices in their society which may contradict the "spirit or the letter" of Helsinki, list possibilities available to "aid in the diffusion, study and understanding" of the declaration and what actions each church is taking or planning to take in this regard.

Dr. Potter further invited suggestions on international ecumenical cooperation for more effective implementation of the declaration and what role the WCC should play in support of these endeavours in the light of the involvement of the Conference of European Churches, the Lutheran World Federation, the World Alliance of Reformed Churches and others.

Dr. Potter recalled in his communication that some delegates to the Assembly had been mainly concerned about restrictions on religious freedom and intellectual dissidence in the socialist states of Eastern Europe, particularly in the USSR. However, progress of the Assembly debate then led to recognition of the interdependence of human rights as expressed in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the International Covenants on Human Rights, also referred to in the Helsinki Declaration. Therefore, Dr. Potter cautioned, isolating religious freedom from other rights, or seeking "to apply criteria from one social system to another without seriously considering the very different contexts" rarely helps to achieve implementation of human rights.

EPS

SAHEL DISASTER UNCOVERED  
DEEPER ISSUES, SEMINAR SHOWS

Ouagadougou, Upper Volta (EPS) - Romantic ideas about more water and more trees and more food are not going to solve the underlying problem of the Sahel.

The major problem is one of underdevelopment, which was only accentuated by the 1974-75 drought that attracted world attention.

This was the message that came through loud and clear at the recent six-day seminar held here under the joint sponsorship of the World Council of Churches and the All Africa Conference of Churches.

Some 70 people from governments, churches and other non-governmental agencies showed up at the seminar. Their interest was taken as an indication of the importance these various communities attach to the programme in which the WCC is involved, according to Mr. Jean Fischer, deputy director of the Commission on Inter-Church Aid, Refugee and World Service.

A key feature of the seminar was an exchange of experiences among people from the six Sahelian countries (Niger, Upper Volta, Mauritania, Mali, Senegal and Tchad).

Even more revealing was the frank exchange between Sahelians and those from the coastal areas of West Africa blest with a better climate and a well-developed infrastructure of roads and marketing facilities. Their coffee and cocoa plantations have profited from the cheap labour of migrants from Sahel countries that often see migratory labour as their only alternative.

According to Mr. Fischer, the drought merely brought to light the underdevelopment of the Sahel countries maintained by the former colonial and other powers (France).

"Don't pity us", said the Sahelians to their wealthier neighbours. "Do something about the forces and powers which continue to oppress us". To the churches overseas they said: "Your aid should be supportive of the struggle for more justice in international relationships".

Rejecting simple solutions like more water and trees, the seminar participants agreed that price control and marketing facilities are also part of a global development process that must be promoted.

Improvement in the situation will come only when the people themselves, including nomads, are led to invent new types of activity. This was made evident through the use of case studies.

The group also visited two projects. One is equipping school leavers with agricultural skills so they will remain in their home communities. The other is a village cereal bank where grain is stored for use prior to the next harvest.

The seminar is producing a report for the use of churches in the AACC and WCC on what should be done to remedy the underdevelopment situation. Then it is hoped that governments and churches and NGOs will continue their cooperation.

EPS

NCC-USA's GOVERNING BOARD  
FOLLOWS UP NAIROBI CONCERNS

Atlanta, Georgia (EPS) - Three world concerns that gained wide visibility at the Nairobi Assembly of the World Council of Churches reappeared this month when the Governing Board of the National Council of Churches (USA) met here.

After hearing a Nairobi keynoter, Australian biologist Charles Birch, representatives of 30 US Protestant and Orthodox denominations approved a framework for the NCC's next triennium emphasizing the need to work for a "just and sustainable global society". Instead of seeing Creation as something to be exploited by humans, the Governing Board spoke of "a world to be revered and used accordingly". It called for a theological perspective stressing the interrelatedness of nature, persons and God.

During the triennium the NCC pledged to carry forward its work in such a way as to point "to essentials for guaranteeing not only survival but an acceptable quality of human existence". It also recognized the need for much greater involvement by lay Christians from a wide variety of disciplines and vocations able to give concreteness to the sacramental-global-interdependent vision suggested by Prof. Birch.

Another Nairobi concern was reflected at Atlanta in a policy statement on Evangelism. Admitting that some Christians had been reluctant to "name the Name of Jesus as Lord and Saviour", the board said the churches must now bear witness to that Name in word and deed. Commitment to Jesus Christ is a personal, social, community and public event, it said. The task of evangelism is "a primary function of the Church ...it challenges the most creative capabilities in the churches while at the same time depending upon the Holy Spirit to be the real evangelist".

A resolution on Angola urged the US Government to extend formal recognition to the Peoples Republic of Angola immediately. It also called for foreign troops to be withdrawn by the governments involved.

A resolution on "The Plutonium Economy" climaxed a six-month debate that had involved Nobel prizewinning scientists, a committee of inquiry and personal testimony of Mr. Gregory Minor, one of three nuclear safety engineers who quit General Electric Corp. because of the issue. The Governing Board urged the US Government to declare a moratorium on the commercial processing and use of plutonium as an energy source. It also called for a halt to the building of a demonstration breeder reactor.

The Division of Church and Society was directed to initiate a fuller study of the theological, economic, socio-political and technical implications of energy use. It will give particular attention to nuclear production for energy and weapons, non-fission alternative energy systems and the proportions of research and development resources allocated to these alternatives. The report coming from the World Council of Churches hearing on nuclear energy shall be incorporated as appropriate. The NCC study is to conclude by spring 1978.

In other actions the Governing Board urged Congress to enact legislation that will aim at no more than 3% unemployment in two years; encouraged member churches to help set up a Bail Bond Fund for minority people; agreed to send a delegation to Washington to protest the arrest of Christians in Korea; and to hear a presentation by Puerto Ricans seeking self-determination for the island.

ZAIRE ADVOCATES TRAINING  
PASTORS, HEADS AND HANDS

Kinshasa (EPS) - Pastors equipped not only to preach but also to help their parishoners with simple carpentry, vehicle repairs and agriculture are wanted by the churches in Zaire.

Thus theological schools are considering how to train their students in the use of their hands as well as their heads.

At a recent consultation organized by the Central African Section of the Association of Theological Training Institutes of French-speaking Africa several suggestions were made. Those studying the theology of development, for instance, should be required to visit the churches' development services specializing in agriculture, community development, garages and workshops.

Theological schools should consider themselves the property of the churches and base their curricula on the needs of the churches, it was held. Both teachers and students should be appointed or recommended by the churches. Both should be active in church life.

Subjects taught must be related to the burning problems of Church and Society, it was agreed. These include the family, the African understanding of sickness and healing and the churches' commitments to the process of development.

To carry on a constant dialogue between churches and theological schools it was recommended that parish pastors share their experiences with students and teach certain courses along with the professors. Lay experts in various fields should be utilized in this same way.

Particular interest was expressed in the Kimbanguist Church's policy of having students work parttime and study parttime, eliminating the need for scholarships.

Theme of the consultation was "Theological Education and Ministries of the Church".

EPS

3 SOUTH AFRICAN CHURCHES  
MOVE TOWARDS OPEN SCHOOLS

Johannesburg (EPS) - The Anglican archbishop of Johannesburg and a leading Methodist have backed the Roman Catholic Church's decision to open its schools in South Africa to all races.

Anglican Archbishop Timothy Bavin told a reporter: "Education should mean learning together as a preparation for living together".

The Rev. Able Hendricks, president of the Conference of the Methodist Church in South Africa, said he would advocate the opening of Methodist Church schools to all races. That would be the correct step for improving race relations in the country".

Archbishop Denis Hurley, Roman Catholic bishop of Durban, confirmed to reporters that his church had decided in principle to open its schools to all races. He said the church was exploring the legal implications of such a move. Mixed schools are banned under South Africa's apartheid laws.

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# Ecumenical Press Service

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MISSIONARIES TO EUROPE COMPARE  
EXPERIENCES AT WCC CONSULTATION

Geneva (EPS) - An increasing number of overseas church workers from Asia, Africa and Latin America are serving churches in Western Europe. Some work in typical parish situations, others minister to ethnic immigrant groups, and a few take up administrative posts with mission boards and national councils of churches.

In some cases they have been sent by churches in the Third World which felt a responsibility for mission in the West. In other cases European churches have requested pastors, social workers, doctors and nurses to work among immigrant groups. Also there are persons in the process of gaining professional training in Europe who are unable or unwilling to return home due to political or economic conditions in their own countries.

Some 21 of these overseas workers gathered here in mid-March under the auspices of the WCC to discuss their experiences. In the group were people serving in Sweden, the Netherlands, Great Britain, the Federal Republic of Germany, France and Switzerland. They were joined by a few representatives of the receiving churches.

No matter what their reason for being in Europe, all overseas personnel had experienced similar problems. The major one was acceptance.

"The nature of the Gospel requires a sharing of the Good News from one people to another", said a report drawn up by the consultation. "For sharing to be genuine, both partners must give and both must receive. All people have gifts of insight into the meaning of the Gospel and awareness of crucial world problems which can contribute to the joy and awareness of church people in Europe", they affirmed.

Unfortunately there is not always a ready acceptance of overseas workers. Because acceptance is "a major element in this new movement of mission in Europe", the consultation devoted considerable discussion to it. For the overseas worker acceptance involves clarifying one's own identity, identifying with the new situation, expressing Christian solidarity with other people and yet not losing sight of one's own roots.

This last is particularly important in order to be able to interpret one's own country to those in the host country. For instance, a Surinamese pastor working in Holland has to be an advocate for his own people now living in the Netherlands.

Many European churches have recognized the need for two-way mission and more and more Third Worlders are asked to serve in European churches. But are the Europeans ready to listen and learn from these people? the consultation asked.

Attitudes were identified as one stumbling block to acceptance. All too often what is different is thought to be inferior. A fallacy, participants said, yet a definite fact of their experience. Through increasing encounters with people of different cultures, colour and outlook, it is hoped that attitudes can be improved.

Specific recommendations made by the consultation included the following:

- 1) receiving congregations should be adequately prepared in advance and vote to invite an overseas worker;
- 2) overseas workers should be given an opportunity to

(more)

participate fully in policy-making committees and boards; 3) churches in countries having laws prohibiting Asians and Africans from serving as pastors should see how this situation could be changed.

Despite the "tremendous sacrifice" required of those who have left home and friends to serve as a missionary, most participants felt the job well worth doing.

"We wish to affirm", said the consultation, "the joyous enrichment received through experiencing the fulness of the body of Christ through people coming to Europe from other cultures and churches".

EPS

#### LAY ACADEMY LEADERS FIND ANSWERS IN INDIA

Bangalore, India (EPS) - More than 30 directors of lay training centers around the world recently completed an original and enriching eight-week ecumenical experience in India. Coming from 25 countries on five continents, they participated in a course equipping them to be "dynamic agents of social development in their respective countries in the light of the Christian faith".

Setting for the course was the Ecumenical Christian Centre at Whitefield outside Bangalore. It was organized jointly by the Laity Desk of the World Council of Churches and the coordinating body of regional Associations for Academies, Centres and Movements for Social Concern in Africa, Asia and Europe.

The course began with a one-week "encuentro" during which students in small groups were exposed to conditions in six cities of India. There they saw how Christian teams and centres are responding to people's needs. This was followed by a 50-day study and reflection period at the Ecumenical Christian Centre.

Seven global issues were the subjects for study: Food/Hunger, Labour/Industry, Health/Population, Rural Development, Political Life, Culture and Nationalism, and Education. Related Indian situations were visited and analyzed with the help of knowledgeable resource people.

Then participants worked in regional groups to formulate their responses to these various problems.

In addition students organized symposia on "Human rights and the struggle for liberation", "National planning for development", "The churches' involvement in Social and Political issues" and "The relationship between the one third and the two-thirds worlds".

Community life was nourished by Bible study and worship.

The experience of participants at Bangalore resulted in suggestions for improving this type of ecumenical learning process which might be organized in future on a continental or regional level.

Dean of the course was the Rev. M.A. Thomas, chairman of the Asian Association of Institutions for Social Concern. Coordinator was the Rev. Werner Simpfendorfer, general secretary of the European Association of Academies.

EPS



QUESTIONNAIRE ON YOUTH WORK  
SIGNALS RENEWED WCC INTEREST

Geneva (EPS) - Member churches of the World Council of Churches have been asked by General Secretary Philip A. Potter to supply information about their youth work.

The Nairobi Assembly concluded in December called for a renewed emphasis on the active participation of youth within the ecumenical movement . As a first step it was suggested that the WCC solicit information about youth activities and needs from the member churches on the basis of which a "revitalized ecumenical youth programme can be developed".

Dr. Potter's questions concerned how youth work is structured within the denomination, issues being dealt with and the extent of participation in ecumenical youth programmes.

Answers to these questions will be given to the "core group" on Education and Renewal when it meets in Geneva May 15-21 to make proposals for future youth programming in the WCC.

Enclosed with Dr. Potter's letter to the churches was the report of the special youth workshop at the Nairobi Assembly.

EPS

DANISH BISHOP HAILS NAIROBI  
EMPHASIS ON EVANGELISM

Copenhagen, Denmark (EPS) - Bishop Thorkild Graesholt of Lolland-Falster, Denmark has termed the retention of the emphasis on mission in the constitution of the World Council of Churches one of the most important actions taken by the Fifth Assembly at Nairobi.

(The revised constitution approved by the Assembly says one of the Council's seven functions is "to support the churches in their worldwide missionary and evangelistic task".)

Writing in the Christian daily Kristeligt Dagblad, he commented particularly on the clear way in which the assembly stated that "the Church has been charged with the evangelization of the world". He noted that the Uppsala Assembly's strong emphasis on the Church's social commitment was also retained by Nairobi.

"The Church has always been committed socially", wrote Bishop Graesholt. "It is not there the fault lies. The fault arises when the social commitment takes the place of, or is even mistaken for, the preaching of the Gospel".

The bishop took issue with an earlier critical assessment of the assembly by Prof. Peter Beyerhaus of Tübingen, Germany, printed by the Copenhagen daily. In his article Bishop Graesholt emphasized that Beyerhaus was not sufficiently aware of the change of course which was to be noted in the assembly.

The Church of Denmark has sent copies of the Nairobi section report on "Confessing Christ Today" to all its local congregations.

EPS

NEW HEBRIDES LEADERS ASK SUPPORT  
FOR INDEPENDENCE MOVEMENT

Geneva (EPS) - The aspirations of the people of the New Hebrides are every bit as valid as those of larger nations and their struggle for independence merits the support of the worldwide Christian community alongside other colonialized territories. This plea was brought to World Council of Churches headquarters this week by two clergymen who also head the tiny archipelago's largest political party.

The Rev. Walter Lini, Anglican, and the Rev. Fred Timakata, Presbyterian, said they are travelling to various world capitals to seek support in efforts "to move the New Hebrides beyond French and British colonial history". Mr. Lini is president and Mr. Timakata vice president of the National Party, which last year received 27,000 out of a total of 35,000 votes cast for the Representative Assembly. They said the potential is 60,000 votes if the voting age were lowered and disenchantment with the joint British-French colonial administration did not keep many away from the polls. The Assembly has thus far not been allowed to convene.

The population, mostly Melanesian, is listed as 90,000 persons. There are also 8,000 British and French nationals largely engaged in the profitable copra trade and operating cotton, cocoa and coffee plantations.

A land reform programme is high up on the list of priorities once the islands become self-governing, the two leaders said. It is designed to make the country self-sufficient in food production and prevent a draining of export profits from the economy.

They expressed disappointment with talks held in London last week with Mr. Ted Rowlands, Under Secretary of the Foreign and Commonwealth Office, at which they requested that the Assembly be allowed to convene in April, that self-government become effective in November and complete independence next year.

On their return trip, the two clergymen will confer with the UN Committee of 24 in New York, which has so far been prevented by the colonial powers from making a fact-finding tour of the islands. The Presbyterian Church of the New Hebrides, a World Council member church, requested the two leaders to visit London, Paris and Geneva. Churches in Uk and France were hosts.

EPS

## VIDEO ASSOCIATION FORMED

Lausanne (EPS) - "Community Communication" is the title of a new organisation launched recently with the help of the churches to promote video television in French-speaking Switzerland. In a period when communication is making rapid strides (cable television, broadcasting via video tape) it has proved important to take advantage of these means to inform the public.

The new association groups representatives from schools, mission organisations, those doing Christian education and social communication.

"Community Communication" has in production 11 video grammes which can be used by pastors giving catechetical instruction. It has staged and filmed an Easter programme entitled "God in the Subway" (underground) as well as a course for teachers in the parishes.

EPS

SOUTH AFRICAN CHURCHMEN, PAPERS  
COMMENT ON CHIEF BUTHELEZI'S CALL

Johannesburg (EPS) - Anglican Bishop Tim Bavin of Johannesburg, Roman Catholic Archbishop Denis Hurley of Durban and Dr. Beyers Naude of the Christian Institute have welcomed the speech of Chief Gatsha Buthelezi in Soweto on March 14 (EPS No.8).

"It is a courageous and reconciliatory call to a revolution in attitudes which warrants a positive response", said the three white churchmen in a joint statement here.

"The chief's astute call is the true recognition by a Christian layman that God summons Christians to a new involvement and commitment in these days of portent. God is calling his people to Christian liberation, that is to an acceptance of the law of love.... Black liberation, and the consequent liberation of whites, which blacks fervently desire, are fundamental activities of this law of love", they stated.

Noting that "the leaders of southern Africa desperately require the true insights of the Christian gospel in daily affairs", the statement concludes: "these insights could well be expressed in a National Convention on Christian concern for southern Africa".

Chief Buthelezi's speech in Soweto placed heavy emphasis on majority rule as the only solution for southern Africa and called for a series of national conventions through which blacks could act unilaterally in defining South Africa's policies.

Editorial comment on the Buthelezi/Naude statement of March 10 included the following:

East London Daily Dispatch (March 15): "Chief Buthelezi and Dr. Naude have put an end to the counter-arguments on foreign investment and redistribution of wealth going by default. In a country where the area of permitted debate has been steadily narrowed by Government legislation and a laager mentality, their words can only be welcomed by all who profess to be democrats. White South Africa is going to have to live with a transfer of political power and a redistribution of much of the country's wealth. The first has been hammered home frequently. The second has been less emphasized, so Chief Buthelezi and Dr. Naude are to be commended for putting the issue in the national spotlight".

Cape Times (March 12): "The fact that men of the stature... of Naude and Buthelezi should feel impelled to resort to appeals of this sort is highly significant. It suggests that the radical injustice of South African society and the glaring maldistribution of wealth, land and political power are creating social pressures which could shake South Africa to its very foundations unless thorough-going reform is instituted....the malady they have diagnosed is real and dangerous".

Rand Daily Mail (March 16): "Whatever the solution may be, there is no doubt now that separate development is not it. Neither is bald 'majority rule'. Therefore a new way will have to be adopted, through a nonracial society with power shared and safeguards for all - which indeed is what Chief Buthelezi calls for".

Meanwhile in Utrecht, the Netherlands, the Executive Committee of the Christian National Trade Union commented that the Buthelezi/Naude statement appears to be "a last effort to achieve real and responsible liberation of the black population by peaceful means. Only when whites in South Africa recognize their black fellow-countrymen as people come of age and give them their inherent rights and responsibilities can basic and just changes be achieved".

WORLD YWCA EXECUTIVE STRESSES  
JOB CREATION FOR WOMEN, YOUTH

Crêt Bérard, Switzerland (EPS) - The employment of women, and particularly young women, was a major focus for discussion at the World YWCA Executive Committee meeting which closed here March 26.

Some 20 countries are represented on the committee chaired by Miss Nita Barrow of Barbados, associate director of the Christian Medical Commission of the World Council of Churches. This was the first full meeting of the group since its election last July by the World YWCA Council in Vancouver.

Dr. Philip A. Potter, general secretary of the World Council of Churches, and Dr. Marion Gallis of UNCTAD spoke to the group.

Youth and employment is the subject of a special study which will bring a selected group of YWCA leaders to Geneva in conjunction with the 1976 World Employment Conference of the International Labour Organisation (ILO) in June. Before coming to Europe they will study the employment situation in their own country and also stop in another country to assess the situation and YWCA employment programmes there.

The study will concentrate on the causes of unemployment of women and youth, the New International Economic Order and proposals for implementation, and what national YWCA's can do on employment issues.

The Executive Committee also heard encouraging reports on the Job Creation Programme initiated in 1972 and now bearing fruit in Bangladesh and Ghana particularly.

Both in rich and poor countries there are groups of women and girls who need earning activities. They include early school drop-outs, university students, widows, illiterate women and older women re-entering the labour market. National associations were asked to seek government and other assistance in the form of loans, equipment, transport, etc. and to evaluate such projects periodically.

The YWCA Crafts Centre in Dacca began in November 1973 to instruct women left destitute by war, in the use of jute cloth to make many useful articles. It also sought to improve the standards of handicraft production. Now it is training women in shop management and marketing procedures since these highly sophisticated jute articles are much in demand for export.

In Ghana girls have been trained in food preparation and cafeteria management as part of a programme to bring hot meals to undernourished school children. Some of these girls are now managing the facilities themselves.

The new emphasis on job creation is only the latest development in the YWCA's long-time concern for continuing education, which has done much to help girls who had to stop school early to augment the family income.

Members of the committee reviewed their individual experience of International Women's Year. In general the reactions were positive. It forced both men and women at every level to review their own attitudes to women, made people aware that women's problems cannot be separated from those of society and highlighted the close relationship between poverty, illiteracy, unemployment, infant mortality and the situation of women.

As a follow-up it was suggested that each National YWCA choose a priority for immediate action.

EMBARGO: April 1, Noon

AMERICAN JESUIT NAMED  
DIRECTOR OF SODEPAX

Geneva, April 1 (EPS) - The Holy See, through its responsible body, the Pontifical Commission "Justitia et Pax", and the World Council of Churches, through the General Secretariat today announced the appointment of the Rev. John A. LUCAL, S.J., to the post of general secretary of SODEPAX, the Committee on Society, Development and Peace. He will start his new duties April 20.

Since 1974, he has been serving on the staff of the permanent mission of the Holy See to the United Nations, a post he now leaves to take his new position at SODEPAX.

Father Lucal, an American Jesuit, has had a long and distinguished career in the field of international problems.

Born in Chicago, Illinois, in 1926, he entered the Society of Jesus in 1951 after serving in the U.S. Army and studying at Harvard College, Laval University and Georgetown University. He has done graduate study at Loyola University, Chicago (M.A. in Philosophy), at West Baden College (S.T. License in Theology) and the University of Münster, Germany. His doctoral dissertation at Columbia University in New York was in the field of international organizations and international affairs.

Besides teaching school in Chicago and Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, Fr. Lucal, from 1963 to 1966, served as an assistant editor of America magazine where he regularly published articles on international questions. He left America to devote full-time work to his doctoral studies in 1966.

A world traveller, fluent in half a dozen languages, Father Lucal is eminently qualified to direct SODEPAX in its new period and to guide the new SODEPAX programme on "International Cooperation and Participation".

Father Lucal will reside in Geneva and work out of the SODEPAX headquarters located at the World Council of Churches, 150 route de Ferney. He will be in Rome frequently for mutual contacts.

EPS

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CMC EXECUTIVE POSTS FILLED,  
LECTURER FOR BOSSEY NAMED

Geneva (EPS) - The Executive Committee of the World Council of Churches meeting here recently elected Miss Ruth Nita Barrow, a Barbadian Methodist, as director of the Christian Medical Commission (CMC). She assumes her new duties on June 1 succeeding Mr. James McGilvray who is retiring.

A specialist in nursing education, public health and administration, Miss Barrow has been associate director of CMC since January 1972. Previously she was a member of the commission from its inception.

On visits to Africa, Asia and Latin America Miss Barrow has encouraged church-related medical institutions to become part of national health plans so they might better serve the needs of all the people. CMC has also given high priority to the development of community health care in developing countries.

From 1964 to 1972 Miss Barrow was nursing adviser to the Pan American Health Organization/World Health Organization counseling 13 governments in the Commonwealth Caribbean on nursing education and community health.

She also serves as President of the World YWCA and recently presided over the first meeting of its new Executive Committee (EPS No.10).

Two associate directors of the Christian Medical Commission elected by the WCC Executive Committee are Dr. Stuart J. Kingma, formerly a medical missionary in Nigeria, and Dr. Ursula Liebrich, a Swiss specialist in tropical medicine who has worked in Chile.

Dr. Kingma, an American, has been a CMC consultant since January 1975. Previously he was medical superintendent of the Mkar Christian Hospital in Benue-Plateau State, Nigeria, on appointment from the Sudan United Mission (Christian Reformed Church Branch). Dr. Liebrich, a native of Basel, did epidemiology and general medicine in Chile before taking a post-graduate degree in social medicine in London.

The Executive Committee also accepted with gratitude the secondment of the Rev. Hans Goedeking by the Evangelical Church in Germany. He will become a lecturer at the Ecumenical Institute ("Bossey") beginning May 1.

Born in a village near Magdeburg, Mr. Goedeking studied at Heidelberg, Göttingen, Munster and McCormick Seminary in Chicago (USA). He began his ministry in a mining parish in Bochum and was involved in work as a student chaplain. For eight years he served as parish minister of a congregation in Düsseldorf including a new housing area. He is a member of the Theological Committee of the Evangelical Church in the Rhineland and in addition to a thesis on conceptions of modern technology and their significance for theology he has contributed to books on social ethics, science and theology and the pocket encyclopedia on Religion and Theology.

EPS

ECUMENICAL STRATEGY FOR GUATEMALAN  
AID PLANNED; CICARWS SENDS TEAM

Geneva (EPS) - An ecumenical team has been commissioned to express the solidarity of the churches worldwide with the people of Guatemala in the aftermath of the earthquake. The team will work with Guatemalan churches to create a "multiple ecumenical aid strategy" for reconstruction, with particular emphasis upon improving the situation of the poor and oppressed, said Muriel S. Webb, director of the Commission on Inter-Church Aid, Refugee and World Service (CICARWS) of the World Council of Churches.

This two-person ecumenical team has begun a five-week assessment of the situation in the Central American Republic under CICARWS auspices. It consists of Bishop Frederic Pagura, district superintendent of the Methodist Church in Argentina, and the Rev. Juan Marcos Rivera of Puerto Rico, regional secretary of UNELAM (Latin American Commission for Evangelical Unity) for the Caribbean and Central America. Bishop Pagura is president of CELADEC (Latin American Evangelical Commission on Christian Education) and chairman of the CICARWS-related Latin American Ecumenical Projects Group.

The team is to advise the WCC on best ways by which short-term and long-term support can be given reconstruction plans. Attention will be paid to the criteria for help established by the Guatemalans themselves. With a view to strengthening ecumenical understanding and cooperation, the team is to provide information to CICARWS and to cooperating international service agencies, many of which have already begun programmes in Guatemala.

Mrs. Webb expressed appreciation for the work of Church World Service as agent for CICARWS during the emergency phase, which came to an end on March 31. A summary of known material and financial aid to date through CWS, CICARWS and related agencies records a total of almost \$1 million sent to Guatemala. Additional commitments for long-term programmes already come to \$600,000.

Continuing church efforts to assist Guatemalans include the sending of specialists. Bread for the World in West Germany has contributed funds and Dienste in Übersee has sent two engineers for three months beginning in March; they will be concerned with housing programmes. A Church World Service representative remains to work with indigenous aid agencies. HEKS of Switzerland has contributed one person to a three-man Swiss team and pledged funds for housing construction. The other two men represent CARITAS and the Swiss Red Cross. Norwegian Church Relief sent a team of four missionaries from Ecuador and Costa Rica. They are engaged in a housing project to which Norway has contributed funds.

CICARWS, in addition to its roles of support for the Guatemalan people and the coordination of international church agency programmes, is conducting activities on behalf of those agencies which are making funds available ecumenically. To this end, CICARWS has issued an appeal for at least \$1 million in the coming months. The WCC team presently in Guatemala is preparing and sending ecumenical action proposals as soon as they are put forward by Guatemalan church leaders.



WCC EDUCATOR PUTS THEORIES  
TO TEST IN GUINEA-BISSAU

Geneva (EPS) - Will the Paulo Freire method of adult literacy training work as well in Africa as it did in the home of its birth - Latin America? This is a question that has been asked for several years. Soon it may be possible to give an answer.

Last year the world-renowned Brazilian educator accepted an invitation from the Minister of Education in Guinea-Bissau to help the government transform the educational system left by the Portuguese when they withdrew in September 1973. Dr. Freire enlisted the aid of three staff from the Geneva-based Institute of Cultural Action (IDAC) and they began to lay the groundwork for a longrange programme.

Following the Freire precept that "we can't teach if we don't learn from those we teach", the team spent 15 days last September listening to staff of Guinea-Bissau's Ministries of Education, Agriculture, Health and Communication. They also visited the hinterlands where the PAIGC liberation movement had worked during the war.

They discovered that a 22-year old woman from Portugal well versed in the Freire method was already training 82 soldiers to become teachers of their Army comrades. These "coordinators" were translating their experience of struggle during the war into new struggles to improve the country's food production.

Because they have received political training, the army is expected to put their knowledge at the service of others, Dr. Freire explained. Literacy training is part of the new task they will have to perform in the countryside.

At the end of the "listening process" the Freire team went back to the ministries and reported on how they had "perceived reality" and asked for corrections. Fortunately their analysis was accepted, and discussion of a possible programme could begin.

Several problems have emerged. Clearly any literacy training must be in the context of a total system of education. But changes in the processes of production must also take place.

"If people continue in the old patterns", says Dr. Freire, "they have no need to read and write. And any literacy training they get will be soon forgotten".

Also it has been necessary to reform the educational system left by the Portuguese, which was designed merely to prepare Africans to serve the colonizers. The teaching of history has already been changed but the problem goes much deeper. Formerly a minority struggled to get a diploma in order to get a better job. In the new society everyone is expected to contribute to the production process so what will motivate illiterates to take training?

During their next visit to the country, the Freire team expects to work out the content of the literacy programme and select places where social and economic transformation is already taking place and literacy work can be added.

Dr. Freire is a consultant to the Sub-Unit on Education of the World Council of Churches. The Guinea-Bissau project is being assisted by the Commission on the Churches' Participation in Development (CCPD).

NAIROBI ENDORSED NEW STUDY  
ON WOMEN AND MEN IN THE CHURCH

Geneva (EPS) - A major study on "The Community of Women and Men in the Church" has been launched by the Faith and Order Secretariat of the World Council of Churches in cooperation with the Women's Desk.

Major topics suggested for study are the language, symbols and imagery used in theology and the Bible, the role of women in the Church, and new styles of partnership.

"The overriding interest of this study programme", says a prospectus, "is to work towards a new and better community of women and men in order to render the Church's mission, service and unity more credible".

Two sections at the Nairobi Assembly gave their endorsement, and every woman present received a copy of the prospectus as one type of action she might initiate on her return home.

Section II on "What Unity Requires" recommended that "the churches participate fully in the study on the Community of Women and Men in the Church, with consideration of issues of theology, Scripture, tradition and ministry. We ask the churches to engage in serious theological reflection on these issues, especially in relation to the issue of the nature of the unity we seek".

It is hoped that women and men of all church traditions and cultures will find ways to participate either through regional or local groups. The prospectus is available in English, French, German and Spanish.

"All groups must feel free to react according to the cultural patterns in which they find themselves and which vary greatly from country to country and church to church", says the prospectus. "Some may concentrate on a particular theme, others may choose a particular action for change and reflect on its implications for theology and church life". Where possible, it is suggested that a woman help organize the study and that groups be led by women or by women and men.

In the Federal Republic of Germany the Association of Protestant Women's Organizations is distributing the study questions and it is also being used in training pastors. Orthodox women will discuss the study when they come to a WCC-sponsored consultation in Romania in September.

Reporting on a recent visit to the USA, the Rev. Geiko Müller-Fahrenholz of the WCC's Faith and Order Secretariat said, "The women question has become the main domestic issue for the churches in the US. It is being dealt with at all levels: synods and conventions, presbyteries, local congregations and seminaries". In addition he found groups of women outside the denominational structures working on the issue.

The most exciting things in US theology today are happening in the area of feminist theology, he was told, not only in terms of content but also of method, i.e. more emphasis on collegiality, shared ownership, etc.

The Faith and Order Commission of the National Council of Churches (USA) will concentrate its meeting next November on The Community of Women and Men in the Church, according to its director, Dr. Jorge Lara-Braud.

(more)

The study grew out of recommendations made by the WCC's 1974 consultation on "Sexism in the 1970's", which were picked up and developed at the Accra meeting of the Faith and Order Commission two months later.

At Accra the Commission said: "Theology entails watching our language in the presence of God. Both generic language and the conventional use of male and female language in speaking about God and the Church stand in the way of a Christian community in which all can participate fully. Both present theological problems which urgently need Faith and Order attention".

As a result, a small consultation of women and men met in Geneva in early 1975 and drafted a paper which was refined by officers of the Commission.

Groups which engage in study are asked to share their findings with the Faith and Order Secretariat. On the basis of "feed-back" it may be possible to have a worldwide consultation of women and men who have participated in the study sometime in 1979.

EPS

#### SUPPORT RALLIED FOR OUSTED BRAZILIAN PARLIAMENTARIAN

Geneva (EPS) - The World Council of Churches has received many expressions of concern for a member of its Commission on Inter-Church Aid, Refugee and World Service (CICARWS) who was stripped April 1 of his parliamentary immunity and political rights for ten years by Brazilian President Ernesto Geisel.

Dr. Lysaneas D. Maciel, an elder in the Brazilian Presbyterian Church and a Deputy in the Brazilian Congress representing the opposition Brazilian Democratic Movement (MDB), was relieved of his mandate and political rights two days after he had defended two colleagues similarly removed by presidential decree from their office as elected representatives.

General Secretary Philip Potter of the World Council has sent vigorous expressions of Christian solidarity to Dr. Maciel. Fears were entertained for his personal safety following the presidential action. Immediately informed by CICARWS Director Muriel S. Webb, church leaders in the United States, Canada, Germany, Denmark, the United Kingdom, France and Switzerland brought their concern to the attention of their governments and sent messages of support for Dr. Maciel to Brazil, to ensure no other action would be taken against him.

Dr. Maciel is the sixth deputy removed from office by presidential decree within the last two years. He has been a leading opposition spokesman on the floor of Parliament, defending human rights and opposing torture. He was chairman of the Parliamentary Committee on Mines and Energy and an outspoken critic of the misuse of nuclear energy. In his second term as a deputy for the district of Rio de Janeiro, Dr. Maciel had been re-elected two years ago with a record vote of 100,000.

The Presbyterian layman joined the CICARWS Commission in 1972. The new WCC Central Committee meeting in Nairobi on December 11 named him to the Commission's core group, which will meet for the first time May 16 in Geneva. Dr. Maciel also participated in last year's Sigtuna hearings on nuclear energy of the WCC's Department of Church and Society.

EPS

CEC CALLS EUROPEAN THEOLOGIANS  
TO CONTEXTUALITY, SPIRITUALITY

Geneva (EPS) - Churches in Europe must articulate their Christian faith in terms of their cultural and socio-political context and witness to the liberating power of the Gospel in day-to-day relationships.

This was the conclusion of some 40 theologians and church executives who attended a consultation here recently on "European theology challenged by the worldwide Church". It was sponsored by the Conference of European Churches (CEC) at the instigation of its Engelberg Assembly in September 1974.

Papers by theologians from Latin America, Africa and Asia were critical of the exceedingly academic nature of much European theology, dealing only indirectly with the suffering and aspirations of people. As a result, they said, it has become the preserve of a small intellectual elite.

A major recommendation made by the consultation was that theological research and the daily preoccupations of Christians must go hand in hand. Academic research is not ruled out but it should help Christians make their faith more relevant to their specific cultural context.

Observing that theology has often been closely linked to "the groups in power" and has sometimes been used by them as an ideology, the consultation urged European churches to study the role of ideology "in our theological and church work".

Several recommendations referred to Section VI at the World Council of Churches' Nairobi Assembly. For example, further study was proposed on "Human development -- the ambiguities of power, technology and quality of life". Approval was also given to the Assembly-proposed programme to "combat militarism". CEC was urged to continue its discussion of the implications of the Helsinki Agreement for European churches.

Recognizing that it is no longer possible to speak of a single European theology, the participants insisted the churches "should become more deeply aware of the spiritual heritage of the Eastern and Western traditions of the Church". If Christians are to be involved in struggles to combat poverty, overpopulation, the ecological crisis and militarism, they need a "spirituality for combat", the consultation said.

"Christian faith should not become an opiate of any kind. A real spirituality is a necessary nourishment for struggle and will be tested in the struggle".

Finally the group recommended listening "more sensitively to the theology and spirituality of the Third World expressed in Christian and other faiths". The recommendations now go to the leaders of CEC and its 106 member churches.

EPS

No. 11 - 8th April 1976

ANTI-MALARIAL TABLETS AIRLIFTED  
TO MOZAMBIQUE BY CICARWS

Geneva (EPS) - A shipment of five million anti-malarial tablets was airlifted to Mozambique in early April by the Commission on Inter-Church Aid, Refugee and World Service (CICARWS) in response to requests for the fever-preventive from the Ministry of Health. The airlift was facilitated by Danish Church Aid in Copenhagen. Sharing in the cost of the project are church aid agencies in Denmark, Sweden, the Netherlands, the United Kingdom and the USA.

Agencies assisting in the fight against the fever include UNICEF which likewise airlifted five million tablets to the Central African Republic. CICARWS is awaiting an assessment of the situation by the World Health Organization and the Mozambican health authorities before dispatching additional Chloroquine tablets.

EPS

LWF CONTRIBUTION AIDS  
RETURN OF MOZAMBIicans

Geneva (EPS) - A contribution of US\$137,000 from the Lutheran World Federation toward the programme for repatriation of refugees to Mozambique was announced here by the UN High Commissioner for Refugees, Sadruddin Aga Khan.

This brings total response to the High Commissioner's 1975 appeal to over \$5 million. The target is \$7.1 million.

The LWF has for many years served as the UNHCR's operational partner in programmes of assistance to refugees of various origins in Tanzania. It helped UNHCR and Tanzanian authorities to organize the return of some 20,000 Mozambican refugees from settlements in Southern Tanzania at the end of last year. The operation was interrupted by rains but is expected to resume soon as there are some 30,000 Mozambicans still in settlements in Tanzania.

The UNHCR programme covers both repatriation and assistance to the returnees in becoming resettled in their homeland through the provision of seeds, tools, agricultural machinery and other equipment. The World Food Program has been providing food until the returnees bring in their first harvest.

EPS

CHILE PEACE COMMITTEE'S LEGAL  
ADVISER TO BE EXPELLED

Geneva (EPS) - News has reached the World Council of Churches that José Zalaquett, who headed the legal department of the now dissolved Christian Peace Committee in Chile from 1973-75, has been ordered expelled under Decree 314. He was one of 10 committee staff members detained for a short time last year just before the committee was dissolved. One of its two presidents, Lutheran Bishop Helmut Frenz, came under government attack and was not allowed to return to Chile. The Committee had assisted detainees, prisoners and their families working for their release. It was aided by the WCC, churches and church agencies.

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The pictorial supplement "Upper Volta" which is attached to this issue has been produced by Danchurchaid.

MISSION TO SWEDEN USES  
FOUR-CONTINENT TEAM

Geneva (EPS) - A seven-member ecumenical team from four continents recently concluded a 21-day swing through Sweden during which it visited 108 groups and social institutions. Its purpose was to help the churches of Sweden see more clearly their mission to their own country.

The idea that Christians from Asia, Africa and Latin America could learn enough about Sweden in this short time to make helpful suggestions about mission was questioned. However, the team in its final report was able to raise a number of pertinent questions based on what it had heard and observed during its travels. This provoked a healthy discussion at the final consultation presided over by Archbishop Olof Lundby, and including members of the Swedish Ecumenical and Missionary Councils, who initiated the invitation.

Spending two or three days in each major city, the team talked with pastors and staff of local congregations, school groups, university and seminary students, factory workers and management, the staff of state hospitals and prisons, members of Parliament and government ministries.

In the team were professional women from Tanzania and Kenya, two Latin American pastors, the principal of a theological college in Singapore, a Japanese working among Koreans in Japan, and a North American who has lived in Europe for many years. They represented Lutheran, Baptist, Presbyterian, Methodist, Pentecostal and United churches.

Their report raised questions about the role of the Church in an increasingly secularized culture, the teaching of religion and ethics as distinct from Christian faith, the Swedish religious tradition and interdenominational cooperation.

The Baptist pastor from El Salvador, the Rev. Roger Velasquez Valle, noted that in his country the per capita consumption of meat is 4 ounces per year. Milk production is two teaspoonfuls per person per day. In this situation the most urgent question faced by Salvadoreans is "Where will we find food tomorrow"? The Gospel must be relevant to that kind of man, he said. Where does the common man in Sweden hurt? Can Christians see the cross in Swedish society, the team asked. If not, can the Good News they bring be relevant to that common man?

The team was quick to acknowledge that no nation has spoken more clearly on the issue of international justice than Sweden. And no nation has made this issue so central in its planning. Yet it felt compelled to ask: "Does compassionate interest in the suffering two-thirds of the world provide an escape from having to listen to the voices of suffering in Swedish society"?

The visitors met many people impatient with things as they are. "Young people above all, but others too, long for more meaningful Christian community, worship that comes from the heart, forms of costly service . . . ." the report states. They termed this "holy impatience, this yearning to be more faithful to Christ" one of the most important signs of the future Church of Jesus Christ in Sweden.

A number of specific examples were mentioned of groups meeting the problem of loneliness, expressing international solidarity, pioneering new forms of worship, living more simply. While these groups don't make headlines, they are "creating with the help of the Holy Spirit an alternative society to Sweden's secular one".

(more)

In a concluding word the team prayed that the Swedish Church and the church everywhere may acknowledge that "it is in weakness that the Body of Christ finds the strength God grants by his grace".

They also expressed the hope that God would open "new avenues of obedience" and called on Christians to look for Him "outside the camp". Finally they gave thanks for "this invaluable time of learning as we participated in the life of the Christian community in Sweden".

EPS

CYPRUS YOUTH CENTRE DEDICATED;  
THANKS EXPRESSED TO WORLD COUNCIL

Nicosia, Cyprus (EPS) - Two months after the 1974 Cyprus War construction began on a Christian Youth Centre some 300 metres from the "green line" dividing the island. Now the centre is finished and dedication ceremonies were held early this month (April 4).

The project, made possible by funds contributed by the Australian Council of Churches, the Evangelical Church in Westphalia and Das Diakonische Werk, gave badly needed employment to displaced Cypriot craftsmen. Equally important, it provides a gathering place for young people who formerly drifted around the streets of the old walled city because they had no suitable meeting place.

Archbishop Makarios in the major dedicatory speech paid warm tribute to the World Council of Churches and its Commission on Inter-Church Aid, Refugee and World Service (CICARWS), which had found the money for the centre. He asked its Middle East Secretary, the Rev. George Tssetsis, to thank the WCC for this expression of "Christian love and solidarity".

Also attending the ceremonies were the Rev. Albert Ickler of the Church in Westphalia and Mr. Jörg Isert, Asia secretary of Broad for the World in West Germany.

The new building was constructed on land belonging to St. Antonios Orthodox Church. It contains a multi-purpose main hall which can seat 200 people or be divided into smaller rooms for lectures or games. In addition there is a canteen and two small study rooms.

Local staff employed by the parish and the archbishop will supervise Sunday School classes, handicrafts workshops and recreational activities.

Speaking at the dedication, Father Tssetsis noted that the Church of Cyprus had been a supporter of the ecumenical movement since 1919 and was one of three Orthodox churches among the founding members of the World Council of Churches in 1948.

"Our aid to the Christian Youth Centre might be termed a reciprocal gesture for the support which the Church of Cyprus has given to the ecumenical movement through the years", Father Tssetsis said. He also brought greetings from General Secretary Philip A. Potter, who is "deeply sensitive" to the needs of Cypriots for peace and justice.

EPS



SELF-RELIANCE CONSULTATION  
PROPOSES ACTIONS TO WCC

Geneva (EPS) - Self-reliance as an alternative to dependence is a concept that has emerged among peoples of the once-dominated non-European countries. It is not copying or "catching up" with those who have dominated. Instead it allows people to define and struggle to achieve their own goals.

Self-reliance stresses people's participation in decision-making, an end to exploitation, the fulfilment of basic human needs and a struggle to build up not to destroy, to unite people in a common effort geared to overcome the oppressors.

This was the consensus of 80 social scientists, church executives, development experts and ethicists who attended a recent consultation on "Self-reliance and Solidarity in the Quest for International Justice" at Chateau de Bossey near here.

Three sub-units of the World Council of Churches cooperated to make the consultation possible: the Commission on the Churches' Participation in Development, the Commission on Inter-Church Aid, Refugee and World Service and the Ecumenical Institute.

Case studies on national self-reliance from big countries such as China compared with or opposed to India and Brazil on one side to small countries such as Tanzania and Yugoslavia were the subjects of intensive group study. From these the group moved to an examination of industrialized societies in their relation to the former, i.e. of how to move from structures of domination to structures of solidarity. Finally it considered how Christians and the churches could express solidarity with those pursuing policies of self-reliance for development.

"Christians and churches by their actions, life-styles and acquiescences are deeply implicated in exploitation, injustice and dominance at home and abroad", the group concluded. "Until the nature of this implication is seen and the struggle to overcome it begins, the Church's trumpets will give forth an uncertain and compromised note".

"Minor individual acts of self-denial are no substitute for a basic critique of the nature of Western societies", said the group. "They are more likely to be a ritual clearing of guilt than a positive contribution to solidarity with the basic human needs of the poor at home or abroad".

The theology of liberation being developed in Latin America and in the All Africa Conference of Churches (AACC) was seen as "a valid integration of theology and commitment to social and political struggle towards the emergence of the new humanity".

A series of 14 recommendations were made to the World Council of Churches by the consultation. Most were in reality directed to its member churches and individual Christians. These ranged from encouraging a change of life-style in industrialized countries to moving the Council's headquarters to Tanzania as a symbol of solidarity with the struggle for social justice.

The WCC was asked to disseminate a clear analysis of "the costs and dangers imposed on countries seeking self-reliance by the international arms trade and the competition among great powers both in arming Third World countries and in exacerbating dissention among them".

(more)

Calling attention to the growing interaction between European and North American economies and military alliances and South Africa, the report said: "That interaction threatens the efforts of neighbouring states to build self-reliance and of the people of southern Africa to achieve liberation. More broadly it gives rise to threats of international conflict whose damage to world peace, overcoming of racial enmities and the life of the Body of Christ are far more terrible than is now realized".

Both individual Christians and churches were asked to review their investment policies in relation to transnational corporations and in particular those significantly implicated in southern Africa.

EPS

AFRICANS' RIGHT TO ACCEPT  
AID EMPHASIZED BY POTTER

Chicago (EPS) - African national movements will accept help anywhere they can find it, just as the American colonies did 200 years ago, Dr. Philip A. Potter, general secretary of the World Council of Churches, said here April 20.

Meeting with reporters before delivering a series of lectures at Garrett-Evangelical Theological Seminary in nearby Evanston, Ill., Dr. Potter said that just because a nation in its fight for liberation accepts aid from Russia or Cuba doesn't automatically mean it will become a Communist satellite.

"Whenever we speak about Africans we assume they are objects, not subjects, and are stupid people who can be manipulated by anybody who chooses to do so," Dr. Potter declared. This attitude "that Africans don't know what they are about", he added, is particularly prominent in United States officials and foreign policy.

The ecumenical executive responded, "I fear not", when asked if bloodshed can be avoided in Rhodesia as the black majority presses to gain control of the government from the white minority regime. Prime Minister Ian Smith has the idea that he will always be supported by powers such as the U.S., Dr. Potter said, adding that "if there is armed conflict it won't be the fault of the blacks - they have been patient and gone to every table of negotiation, over and over".

Noting the Bicentennial celebration, the World Council's chief executive said that "as the most powerful nation in the world, the U.S. has a profound responsibility in the quest for a truly world community of justice and peace".

"The challenge to the churches", he continued, "is to keep before the nation the responsibility of using its power for the good of humanity".

This is especially true, in Dr. Potter's opinion, in a time when there is a "new parochialism and withdrawing in the world". The church, he stressed, must "remind people that we are a part of the world, (and) the revolutions of the past few years should warn people that we cannot ignore our responsibilities".

EPS

DELEGATION SENT TO DISCUSS PLANS FOR  
CONVENING PAN-ORTHODOX COUNCIL

Geneva/Istanbul (EPS) - The Ecumenical Patriarchate in Istanbul decided at a special session of the Holy Synod to hold consultations with heads of patriarchates and autocephalous churches to coordinate preparations for a Pan-Orthodox Council. The last such Council of churches was held in 787 at Nicea. A report said the planned world meeting of Orthodox leaders will also be "of importance for Orthodox relations with different non-Orthodox churches and confessions, the ecumenical cause in general and Christian unity".

The consultations will be carried out by a delegation, composed of Metropolitan Meliton of Chalcedonia, dean of the Holy Synod of the Ecumenical Patriarchate and president of the Inter-Orthodox Preparatory Commission for the Pan-Orthodox Council; Monsignor Damaskinos, Metropolitan of Tranoupolis and secretary of the Commission; and Father George Tsetsis, High Protopresbyter of the Ecumenical Patriarchate and specialist in inter-Orthodox affairs.

Leaving Geneva April 26 and returning May 22, the delegation will visit the heads of eleven patriarchates and autocephalous churches throughout the world. Informed sources expect the preparatory commission to meet yet this year or not later than in the first half of 1977. The commission last met in 1971 in Chambésy near Geneva.

EPS

EFFORTS TO STEM UNDERDEVELOPMENT  
IN SAHEL COUNTRIES PICTORIALIZED

Geneva (EPS) - With a wide-ranging \$3.5 million CICARWS programme to reverse the process of underdevelopment, fostered additionally by the recent six-year drought, well on the way in the Sahel countries, pictorial reports begin to document progress

Danchurchaid, the Danish interchurch agency, has just completed an ambitious multi-media educational project, of which the photographs in the sheets attached to this issue of EPS are a part. The Danish project consists of three 25-minute films, accompanied by informational charts, three sets of colour slides with scenes from the films and a reference book dealing with West Africa, the Sahel areas, Upper Volta and the background of communities filmed.

The three films picture a traditional community in the outskirts of Ouagadougou, Upper Volta; a traditional village community, and a nomad community in the extreme north of that country. The source and reference book attempts to uncover the community structures to enable the reader to grasp the general nature of basic development issues such as urbanization, subsistence economy versus market economy, and the precarious nature of nomad existence. The material will be used in Danish schools, by church study groups and will be made available widely to the public.

EPS

UPDATE AND CORRECTION:

CICARWS has made a second shipment of five million anti-malarial tablets to Mozambique. The second paragraph of a news item reporting the first such shipment to Mozambique, carried in EPS No. 11, page 8, 8th April, incorrectly identified the destination as "Central African Republic". The sentence should have read: "Agencies assisting in the fight against the fever include UNICEF which likewise airlifted five million tablets to the African republic. CICARWS is....". EPS

# Upper Volta

Photo:  
Peter Solbjerghøj





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The following pictures were taken in Upper Volta during the months of October and November 1975.

**Front page:** Woman sifting millet in the outskirts of Ouagadougou, capital of Upper Volta

**Page 2 and 3 (2–20):** A Tuareg community, north of Gorum Gorum

**Page 4 (21–33):** Piéla, a village community in central Upper Volta

**Page 5 and 6 (34–50):** Ouagadougou – the capital of Upper Volta

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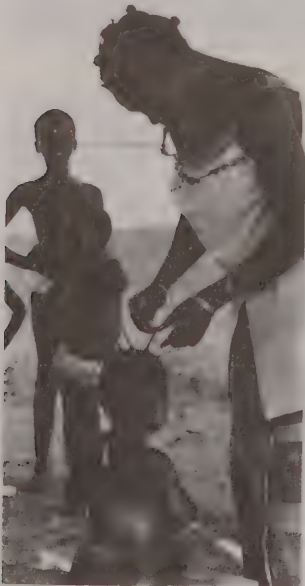
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# Ecumenical Press Service

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CICARWS ASKS \$100,000 FOR  
WEST SAHARAN REFUGEES

Geneva (EPS) - The Commission on Inter-Church Aid, Refugee and World Service (CICARWS) this week appealed for \$100,000 in funds plus material aid in kind for an estimated 50,000 West Saharan refugees living under extreme hardship conditions in 16 Algerian camps.

Material aid needs for the rest of 1976 have been estimated at SwF 19 million by a joint Catholic-Protestant team during a fact-finding trip to camps in the region of Tindouf. The team's report said: "We insist that this appeal (for large-scale aid) be heard by all and that the movement of solidarity with these refugees be intensified".

The list of needs contains basic foods such as cereals, dried vegetables, milk powder and sugar, as well as tents and blankets, basic medicines, kitchen equipment, vehicles and cisterns.

The Catholic-Protestant delegation consisted of Cardinal Leon-Etienne Duval, archbishop of Algiers; Jean-Marie Raimbaud, bishop of Laghouat; Jacques Blanc, president of the Protestant Church of Algeria and general secretary of "Rencontre et Développement"; and Henri Teissier, bishop of Oran and president of Caritas Algeria. The delegation was "horrified" by the conditions of the refugees, the problems of water and fuel supplies, sanitary conditions and food shortages. The churchmen underlined strongly the urgent necessity of massive world-wide aid efforts.

EPS

EDCS WILL ASK CENTRAL COMMITTEE  
TO AUTHORIZE OPERATIONS

Oegstgeest, Netherlands (EPS) - The Board of Directors of the Ecumenical Development Cooperative Society (EDCS) has decided to ask the World Council of Churches' Central Committee next August for authorization to begin operations.

The first meeting of the Interim Board, held in Oegstgeest near Leiden April 29 - May 1 under the chairmanship of Cyril J. Bennett, received reports of encouraging responses from churches and related organizations and agreed to accept share capital from prospective members whose letters of investment intent are on file. The Board also acknowledged with appreciation a gift of 250,000 Dutch Guilders from the Ministry of Development Cooperation of the Netherlands for the Society's administrative expenses.

Formation of the Ecumenical Development Society designed to apply sound banking principles and methods to the promotion of self-reliant development projects in chronically indigent and underdeveloped countries around the world was ordered by the WCC Central Committee two years ago. Organisational and legal requirements have been met in the meantime and the Society has on hand data on a number of development projects which can play a significant role in upgrading living conditions with the help of resources the churches have designated for the purpose.

EPS

TRADITIONAL MEDICINE HAS ITS USES,  
CONSULTATION TELLS WHO ASSEMBLY

Geneva (EPS) - In the interest of promoting primary health care for the total populations of the lesser developed countries, the World Health Organization's Assembly is this week considering the possibility of using the world's largest health resource: practitioners of traditional medicine.

It will discuss suggestions coming from a recent WHO-sponsored consultation presided over by Mr. James McGilvray, retiring director of the Christian Medical Commission (CMC) of the World Council of Churches.

"Some 80% of the people in developing countries are deprived of any Western-style health services", reported Mr. McGilvray, "and economic growth is so slow that there is absolutely no possibility they can ever be totally served by Western-style professionals. Furthermore Western medicine has never been very successful in inducing its practitioners to serve in rural areas.

"Traditional practitioners offer one tremendous advantage -- they are already there", he stated.

Participants in the consultation therefore discussed how WHO member states might integrate traditional medicine into their overall health systems.

Recognizing the complexity of the subject and the prejudices on both sides, they recommended the formulation of national policies to investigate various categories of traditional medicine and to take a census of practitioners. It was anticipated that some elements of traditional medicine could be easily assimilated into national systems; others would require modification through training programmes; and still other elements should be eliminated as dangerous.

Further research was advocated into the pharmacological properties of herbs and other substances used in traditional medicine which might be of benefit to all. Mr. McGilvray recalled that ephedrin and digitalis derivatives were discovered by earlier research.

He pointed out several affinities between practices in traditional medicine and the activities of indigenous churches. Both, he said, are culturally acceptable and take a holistic view of the person, which has so often been lost in highly technical forms of Western medicine.

Attending the consultation were African, Asia, European and North American physicians, anthropologists and research workers doing studies on traditional medicine.

The Christian Medical Commission has sponsored projects in South Korea and India that successfully integrated traditional practitioners into Western-style health care services.

EPS

NEW ROLE FOR WORLD  
YOUTH PROJECTS SOUGHT

Geneva (EPS) - Youth secretaries from four regions expressed appreciation to World Youth Projects (WYP) for bringing young people together around common concerns and involving them in training, seminars and conferences, and service activities.

The regional secretaries had been called to Geneva to review the 30-year-old programme to see whether it was still meeting the needs of youth today. After a serious examination they conclude: "We see WYP not just as an administrative outfit for the screening and funding of youth projects around the world. We see it as a programme that will nurture dialogue, sharing, mutual accountability and fellowship at all levels". They stressed particularly the need to promote greater understanding between regions as to the actual situation in each region.

One function proposed for the programme was to "provide opportunities for young people to participate fully in the renewal of church and society and to contribute to the liberation of the poor and oppressed".

Specific suggestions included: (1) developing a network of national contacts to clarify the criteria and direction of the WYP programme in each region; (2) sending information about WYP to the youth departments of all WCC member churches; (3) holding a yearly meeting of regional youth secretaries or WYP coordinators set in a different region each year to enable evaluation of projects in that region.

These proposals will go to the core group of the new Sub-Unit on Youth of WCC, which meets May 16-21 in Geneva.

Last year the member churches of the World Council of Churches contributed \$181,434 to fund 44 such projects in Asia, Africa, Latin America, Europe, the Caribbean and Middle East.

EPS

ITTY HEADS WCC DELEGATION  
TO 4th UNCTAD CONFERENCE

Geneva (EPS) - The World Council of Churches has named six persons to represent it at the Fourth Conference of the United Nations Commission on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) in Nairobi May 3-28. They are C.I. Itty, director, and Diogo de Gaspar, staff member of the Commission on the Churches' Participation in Development; Canon Burgess Carr, general secretary of the All Africa Conference of Churches; Bethuel Kiplagat, deputy general secretary of the National Christian Council of Kenya; Henk van Andel of the X-Y Movement in the Netherlands; and Beverly Keene, University of Ghana.

Mr. Itty will deliver an address before the UNCTAD plenary in the afternoon of May 13 on the churches' concern for development and the establishment of a new international economic order.

EPS

RECORD DONATIONS TO CHRISTIAN AID  
SUPPORT DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMMES

Geneva (EPS) - Christians have long practice in responding quickly and generously to aid victims of natural disasters such as floods, earthquakes and cyclones. A shipment of blankets and vitamin pills rushed to the scene by airplane gives the donors a warm feeling of accomplishment.

Pinpointing the causes of poverty grinding the poor into the pavements of Calcutta - and working to eliminate those causes - is not nearly so quick and easy. Nor is it equally dramatic.

Yet Christian Aid, the relief and development agency of the British churches, has apparently been able to convince people in Britain that assistance to those living in both rural and urban poverty is a cause worthy of their support.

Christian Aid received a record sum of £4,206,935 in the year that ended September 30, 1975. This was an increase of nearly half a million pounds over the previous year. More than half this amount came in during Christian Aid Week when a concerted educational campaign was mounted by an army of supporters and campaigners in England, Scotland, Wales and Ireland. The sum was particularly noteworthy in a period when no major disasters or emergencies made headlines.

A printed report of the organization's operations shows 60% of Christian Aid's expenditure was on development projects around the world, concentrating resources on "long-term remedies rather than on short-term first aid". Development was seen in terms of agriculture, health, trade, education, and social welfare. Projects receiving aid were put forward by groups and organisations indigenous to each locality.

In Asia, for example, Christian Aid helped to underwrite a new community health programme at Companyganj, Bangladesh. Here the Christian Medical Commission of the World Council of Churches working with government was able to train enough village health workers (selected by the community itself) to ensure effective health care to the total population of 160,000.

Christian Aid has pledged £100,000 over a four-year period towards an integrated social development programme for the 2.3 million people in Calcutta's "bustees", the world's biggest and worst slums. The programme, including primary education, basic health facilities and general community development work, is being carried out by a consortium of Calcutta's own voluntary agencies (with funds from Europe), complementing a massive physical improvement programme by the city's Metropolitan Development Authority aided by the World Bank.

In Latin America aid has been given to rural development projects to relieve rural poverty, legal services and literacy work among migrants, and community development and vocation education among those crowding the already swollen cities.

In Africa the emphasis is on programmes to improve the daily life of the peasant farmer. An ox-plough training centre was established in Southern Sudan and funds went to well-drilling and conservation of rainfall in the Sahel, a medical team for the drought-stricken Ogaden district of Ethiopia and operating expenses for 12 church-related agricultural centres serving small farmers in northern Ghana.

(more)

Equally undramatic but obviously necessary was aid to refugees: from Indochina, from Angola, from Timor. And through the Middle East Council of Churches aid to some of the 2 million Palestinians particularly through vocational education.

Of the £176,400 contributed to the World Council of Churches, the major share went to the service programme conducted by the Commission on Inter-Church Aid, Refugee and World Service (CICARWS). It aids refugees from a number of African countries as well as the Palestinians, and provides scholarships for many young men and women requiring training outside their own country.

Responding to criticism leveled at Christian Aid in the British press, Ms. Muriel Webb, director of CICARWS, stated: "Having worked with Christian Aid and other such agencies over a number of years, I can say that the programme staff of an agency like Christian Aid is crucial. The human factor in the sharing of resources is as important as the food or clothing or medicines dispensed. The aim is not only to give relief but to develop the capacity of refugees or those stricken by disaster to build new lives".

EPS

#### MIXED MARRIAGE REPORT GOES TO PARENT BODIES

Venice (EPS) - A five-year interconfessional dialogue on "The Theology of Marriage and the Problem of Mixed Marriages" concluded here last week.

Lutheran, Reformed and Roman Catholic theologians recorded several areas of theological convergence but also noted that "persisting divergencies of a radical nature" still exist.

The 14-member Study Commission of the Lutheran World Federation, the World Alliance of Reformed Churches and the Roman Catholic Church drew up a final report that will be submitted to the appropriate authorities for consideration.

Progress has been made in the theological understanding of the "sacramental aspect" of marriage and the indissolubility or lifelong nature of marriage. Differences stem from the fact that Roman Catholics are governed by canon law while Protestants are not. Catholics view marriage as one of their seven sacraments while Protestants have only two: Baptism and Eucharist.

During the course of the five-year study the commission debated the following topics: the situation of marriage today from the sociological, psychological and religious points of view; sexuality and anthropology in contemporary thought; the Catholic teaching of marriage as a sacrament and marriage in the perspective of the theology of the churches of the Reformation; the understanding of the indissolubility of marriage; the differing approaches of the churches in dealing with marriage in all the pastoral dimensions of the life of the Church and the regulative norms concerning marriage with special reference to mixed marriages.

EPS

SWISS PAPER ASKS READERS  
TO INTERCEDE FOR PRISONERS

Geneva (EPS) - The French-language weekly La Vie Protestante published here has begun a series of articles on "solidarity with prisoners and torture victims". Each week it will publish information on one specific individual whose human rights are being violated, wherever it may be and under whatever regime, and suggest concrete actions that might be taken.

The weekly said it was responding to the request made by the Fifth WCC Assembly at Nairobi that "the churches develop ways in which those suffering in the name of Christ are included by name in the intercessions of all congregations". It also asked that parishoners be informed about the situations of people thus mentioned.

"No one - imprisoned, tortured, harassed or persecuted - should escape the vigilance of the praying church", said the Assembly.

Dr. Jean-Jacques Gauthier, retired Geneva banker who is supervising the series, explained its purpose in these words: "The Christian must know that in these pain-racked and bloody bodies bearing the marks of torture it is the soul itself which suffers. These detention camps pervert the prisoner, the torturer, his chief and ultimately the entire nation where no one dares to render assistance to victims of the regime", he said.

The usual response is to look the other way or bury one's head in the sand, Dr. Gauthier noted. "There's only one problem: this is not in conformity with the teaching of Jesus Christ". And he asks whether Christians over the past 2000 years while trying to help the poor, the stranger and the sick have not neglected the prisoner for whom Christ showed special concern (Matt. 25:31-46).

Among the responses available to the Christian is informed intercession. Instead of vague generalities one can refer by name to the prisoner for whom one prays and make his or her needs known. Active intercession refuses to turn prayer into an alibi for inactivity, said Dr. Gauthier. The one who prays must feel closely united by love and suffering to victims of prisons or torture.

EPS

## MOZAMBIQUE RELEASES MISSIONARIES

Geneva (EPS) - Mozambique has freed five Protestant missionaries - three Seventh Day Adventists, a Nazarene and a minister of the Assemblies of God, according to information received by the World Council of Churches.

Those released are two North Americans, the Rev. Hugh Friberg and the Rev. Don Milan, and three Brazilian Adventists.

Another Nazarene, the Rev. Armand Doll, is still being held, but the international headquarters of his church located in Kansas City, Missouri (USA) is optimistic about his imminent release following conversations with the US State Department.

EPS



PRESBYTERIAN COMMITTEE GIVES  
\$319,000 TO DEVELOPMENT

Tampa, Florida (EPS) - The National Committee on the Self-Development of People of the United Presbyterian Church in the USA has made five grants totalling \$319,200. One is \$200,000 to support the work of the World Council of Churches' Commission on the Churches' Participation in Development.

The Coptic Evangelical Organization for Social Services in Egypt will receive \$48,600 to improve the level of living of rural poor in three provinces through small-scale poultry production. To enable a fishing community of 100 families in Puerto Rico to build larger boats, buy more powerful outboard motors and establish better marketing methods, \$18,000 will be given. A bamboo and needle craft village industry, also in Puerto Rico, will receive \$26,600 to repair a warehouse and buy better equipment, and an Indian health project in Pauma Valley, California, will be provided \$26,000 to give direct and more efficient medical care to a greater number of native Americans.

Funds for the two Puerto Rican projects are to come from \$95,000 received from the Arctic Slope Regional Corporation of Barrow, Alaska, which was the recipient of a self-development grant during its formation in 1971. The corporation said it wanted the self-development committee "to accomplish for others what it has for us". Now in its sixth year, the Presbyterian committee operates with funds (about \$2 million) collected annually at Lent in conjunction with the denomination-wide One Great Hour of Sharing campaign.

EPS

ECUMENICAL ECONOMIST SLAIN

Istanbul (EPS) - Mr. Denys L. Munby, 56, an Oxford economist and a pioneer in social thought for the World Council of Churches, died here in hospital April 24. On holiday in Turkey, he was found in a car unconscious with severe head injuries which had apparently been inflicted by a stone. A memorial service will be held in Oxford on June 12.

Mr. Munby, an Anglican layman, was a member of the WCC's Working Committee on Church and Society for 20 years. He wrote extensively on Christian responsibility for economic problems. Lectures on this subject at Union Theological Seminary, New York, in 1954 were expanded into a book, Christianity and Economic Problems, which remains a major work on this topic. He was a consultant at the Second WCC Assembly (Evanston 1954) and edited one of four preparatory books for the 1966 World Conference on Church and Society, serving as rapporteur for the section on economics.

His volume on World Development gathered up the report and papers from the Beirut Conference on Development (1968) organized by the WCC and the Pontifical Commission Justice and Peace as the first major effort of SODEPAX, the Joint Committee for Society, Development and Peace.

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## Ecumenical Press Service

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WCC DEVELOPMENT DIRECTOR RAISES  
MORAL ISSUES AT UNCTAD MEETING

Nairobi, 13 May (EPS) - Proposals on commodities and debt relief which have been made by the developing nations to the current UN Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) were termed "realistic and modest" by the development director of the World Council of Churches.

Addressing a plenary session of UNCTAD today (13 May) Mr C.I. Itty of South India said the WCC's member churches hope this conference will not fall below the minimum goals contained in the proposals of the Group of 77 (now 112).

"If we are critical of the proposals", he said, "it is that they have come too late and offer too little in view of the gravity of the situation and the immensity of the needs". He termed "these modest measures" initial steps towards a concerted effort by the family of nations to establish a new international economic order as called for by the UN.

Noting there are "moral issues" behind the seemingly technical proposals, the church development director suggested four considerations for judging any proposal made at the Nairobi meeting.

First, whether it recognizes the basic human right of every person in the world to the necessities of life and society's duty to provide these, and that the resources of the earth belong to the entire human family with no group prevented from meeting their basic material and social needs.

Second, whether the proposal promotes social justice, self-reliance and economic growth.

Third, how a proposal is seen from the perspective of the poor and oppressed.

Fourth, whether the measure is part of a long-range strategy to establish a new international economic order.

Turning to proposals of the developing countries, Mr Itty saw the "integrated programme for commodities" as the first step in a long-term strategy to enhance the purchasing power of the poor nations and to ensure for them a fairer share of world trade. He viewed debt relief as "one aspect of a major strategy required for greater and more automatic redistribution of resources".

(The "integrated approach to commodities" envisages a common fund, financed by both rich and poor countries, to back commodity agreements. The goal is to give poor countries a better and more stable return for the raw commodities on which they are heavily dependent.)

Mr Itty blamed "the pursuit of ever-rising affluence" for distorting the appropriate use of the world's resources. When 30% of the world's population owns nearly three-fourths of the world's resources, maldistribution is inevitable, he said. And if this group wishes to acquire greater prosperity, it will only aggravate the existing ills.

"The question is whether the rich everywhere are prepared to set a ceiling on their affluence and redirect their resources to put a floor under poverty", Mr Itty stated. Changes in the patterns of production and consumption in the rich societies will be necessary "if we are serious about the development challenge".

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He also had a pointed word for Third World countries. Stating that he came from a poor country and represented a council the majority of whose member churches are in the Third World, Mr Itty said, "...our people are also victims of internal injustice and exploitation by the rich and the powerful in our own countries. Often there has been collusion between vested interests in our own countries and foreign interests, to exploit the masses. Within our own countries we have done too little to reduce the gap between the rich and the poor".

He therefore called on representatives of Third World countries to ensure that justice, self-reliance and people's participation in development plans and processes become part of the internal practices of "our governments and institutions".

The churches, said Itty, stand ready to "mobilize our constituency to put its weight behind the efforts of peoples, governments, the UN and its agencies to bring about a new international economic order, to manifest and promote a just world society free from poverty and want". The churches' role would involve moral support, participation and community action.

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SKETCHED BY WCC GENERAL SECRETARY

Philadelphia, Pennsylvania (EPS) - Dr Philip A. Potter, general secretary of the World Council of Churches, presented "a global view" of religious liberty when he addressed the interfaith Bicentennial Conference on Religious Liberty held here for six days in late April.

The West Indian Methodist was the only foreigner to speak to the scholarly conference, which focused mainly on the American experience of conscience and dissent. It was sponsored by the Christian and Jewish communities of Greater Philadelphia.

Dr Potter took as his point of departure a statement of the Council's recent Nairobi Assembly. It said that religious freedom means not only the freedom to manifest the belief of one's choice but also the duty of religious bodies to criticise the ruling powers when necessary. The Assembly noted that "many Christians in different parts of the world are in prison for reasons of conscience or for political reasons as a result of seeking to respond to the total demands of the Gospel".

The WCC executive gave illustrations from different parts of the world as to what this has meant in actual practice.

In the Republic of Korea, he said, Christians have been expressing their religious liberty in identifying themselves with those who are deprived of their human rights, who are economically and socially exploited. Many of these Christians are now imprisoned.

"One crucial element here is the dependence of the Korean Government on US military and economic aid, which are being used to violate human rights", he said.

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In Latin America, according to Dr Potter, "local oligarchies are ganging up with foreign powers, especially the USA, to develop economically but at the expense of the vast majority of the people. Christians have expressed their religious liberty by drawing out the implications of the Gospel for the recognition of the basic human rights of the people. And many have been imprisoned, tortured, and even killed.

"Here again", said Dr Potter, "the US Government and multinational and other enterprises have appeared to undergird oppressive regimes which flagrantly violate human rights including religious liberty."

These and other examples from the Middle East, southern Africa, Ethiopia and Mozambique are indications "of the ways in which religious liberty and other human rights are intertwined", he said. "One way or the other, the American state and American economic involvement have a profound influence on whether human rights including religious liberty are observed or not, particularly in the Third World."

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He cautioned against making religious liberty "an ideology rather than a means for people to seek to fulfil the purposes for which the United States was proclaimed".

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The World Council of Churches had inaugurated the debate in June 1975 at Sigtuna, Sweden with a hearing on the risks and potentialities of the expansion of nuclear power programmes. Since then the National Council of Churches (USA) has been engaged in a heated controversy over the "plutonium economy".

At Versailles it quickly became apparent that the use of nuclear energy implies political, economic and social choices. There was disagreement concerning the importance which should be attached, especially in the framework of French nuclear policy, to this source of energy and about the questions of cost and security it posed, its impact on the social order and the possibility of developing alternative sources of energy such as solar and geo-thermal.

According to Mr Jean-Marie Chevalier, who is attached to the Energy Institute of Grenoble, nuclear energy represents for France a financial abyss. "It's Concorde to the order of 20", he said, which could only be sustained by a constantly increasing inflation. He advocated "maximising present energy sources" and increased financing of research on non-polluting, decentralised and renewable forms of energy, as well as utilizing fully already existing sources such as natural gas. This would permit a pause in nuclear research to allow better preparation for the nuclear era.

He warned against using the present slogan "Everything electric, everything nuclear" and said: "It is not necessary to make the same stupid mistake of concentrating everything on nuclear energy as we did on petrol."

The Versailles colloquium revealed that on the level of energy planning there were different approaches. Those from the public service sector and the economy said it was necessary to find quickly the means of satisfying the economic needs of France. The Seventh Plan speaks of the equivalent of 235 million tons of petrol by 1985 against 175 million produced in 1974. Does not reliance on nuclear energy constitute a gamble in view of the risks involved and the many unknown factors? it was asked.

"I do not like the word nuclear gamble", said Mr Pierre Bacher, an engineer for Electricité de France (a state utility) responsible for building the nuclear power station at Fessenheim. "We have taken an action that, like any other, involves risks but not a gamble." "Our task at EDF and at the Atomic Energy Commission is to respond to national needs and reduce the risk to a minimum."

A series of fundamental and prior questions was posed by Father Dubarle of the Roman Catholic Institute of Paris. What type of growth assures the wellbeing of people, what are the military and social consequences, what kind of power relationship does this engender between those nations with nuclear technology and those in process of development, and is there need for a wider and better informed public discussion about a choice which will bind all future generations?

For Gerard Siegwalt, professor of dogmatics at the Protestant Faculty in Strasbourg, it was necessary to define not only the true and false energy needs but also to ask what ethical norms must be applied in the use of nuclear energy. These would be part of a global approach to the society of tomorrow. Such criteria would focus more on the quality of life than on increased buying power, more on joy and less on pleasure.

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Faced with such complex problems, what should be the Christian's attitude? Guy Denielous, president of the Technology University of Compiègne and a Protestant layman, gave this tentative answer: "The Christian's role is to keep cool and level-headed while making use of the critical spirit and the hope which is born of the Gospel."

The meeting urged the churches of France to share in and encourage the inter-disciplinary debate needed on this urgent ecumenical question.

EPS

#### REVIEW COMMITTEE HOLDS FIRST MEETING IN GENEVA

Geneva (EPS) - The process of streamlining the ecumenical ship - the World Council of Churches - for a seven-year voyage through financially troubled waters got under way this week at the Cartigny Conference Centre near here. A 12-member Review Committee had been given this task by the new WCC Central Committee immediately following the Nairobi Assembly.

Under the moderatorship of Archbishop Karekin Sarkissian of the Armenian Apostolic Church, the Review Committee took a first look at how the WCC's programme can be concentrated more clearly around a few themes which affect more than one unit and represent the major emphases of the Council as a whole. They also looked at programme duplication and overlapping and considered how to strengthen the programme unit on education and renewal.

At a second meeting in August the committee will finalise its recommendations on priorities for the Central Committee. This larger body of 134 members, meeting August 10-18, will approve the final shape of the streamlined ship as well as a budget to finance it through 1977.

Members of the Review Committee present in Geneva this week were: Prof. Vitaly Borovoi (USSR), Principal Olle Engstrom (Sweden), Ms Janice Love (USA), Dr Robert Marshall (USA), Dr Emerito Nacpil (Philippines), Bishop Henry Okullu (Kenya), Prof. Josef Smolik (Czechoslovakia), Dr Koson Srisang (Thailand) and Mrs Hildegard Zumach (West Germany). Metropolitan Hazim of Syria and Ms Mercy Oduoye of Nigeria were unable to attend.

EPS

#### RUSSIAN PRIESTS GET NEW DUTIES

Moscow (EPS) - Two Russian Orthodox priests, Gleb Yakunin and Dmitri Dudko, have been given new assignments by church authorities. The first has become a reader in the parish of Caschnikowo; the second officiates as the second priest in the parish of Grebjowo. Both are in the vicinity of Moscow.

After sending a letter about religious liberty in the USSR to the Fifth Assembly of the World Council of Churches last November, Gleb Yakunin was suspended from his post as reader in a parish near Moscow. He had been forbidden to exercise priestly duties since 1966 on order of Patriarch Alexei after he sent an open letter to the patriarch criticising acts of the Council of Bishops.

The contract of Dmitri Dudko was cancelled on 21 December by the parish council of the Church of the Martyr Nikita in Kabanova. In a letter dated 13 January 1976 (EPS no. 2) his superior, Metropolitan Seraphim of Krutitsky and Kolomna, explained that Dudko had been warned about systematically including political material of an anti-social character in his sermons.

EPS

MOZAMBICAN CHURCHES FACE  
FUTURE WITH CONFIDENCE

Geneva (EPS) - Optimism regarding the future of the Christian churches in Mozambique and the contribution they can make towards the development of the country was expressed here this week by three church leaders representing the Christian Council of Mozambique (CCM).

In talks with officials of the World Council of Churches, the delegation acknowledged with gratitude aid for humanitarian purposes from the WCC's Programme to Combat Racism to FRELIMO during the struggle for independence. They endorsed the continuing support by WCC member churches and their agencies for the people of Mozambique through the government's programme of health services, education, rural development and social services.

The delegation is headed by Anglican bishop Dinis Sengulane, president of the Christian Council, and includes the Rev. Isaac D. Mahlalela, general secretary of the CCM, and the Rev. Osias Mucache, president of the Presbyterian Church.

They called attention to the difficulties facing the country after 500 years of Portuguese rule, but saw many hopeful signs in the manner in which the country's resources are rallied for the benefit of all people. Support from many sources will be needed to rebuild and establish a stable economy as a new society takes shape, Bishop Sengulane pointed out. He said the churches are ready and willing to throw their full weight behind efforts to build the new society. In which way they will be asked to participate in development depends on decisions that have not yet been made, he added.

The delegation regretted reports of the alleged persecution of Christians, pointing out that the constitution guaranteed the freedom of all "to practise or not to practise" religious exercises. They said arrests have been made solely on the basis of national security and not on religious grounds. Of six missionaries detained five (two Americans and three Brazilians) had already been released. Reports of the persecution of Jehovah's Witnesses were labelled "exaggerated" by Bishop Sengulane. He said the Witnesses are being resettled in villages in which families are reunited, build their own homes and cultivate land to support themselves while leading their communal life undisturbed.

Further dispelling reports of government interference with religious life, the delegation reported membership increases in church congregations, particularly among the younger generation. Bishop Sengulane said that the number of Anglican congregations in the Maputo area (formerly Lourenço Marques) had increased by four since independence last June as against three additions in the 10 preceding years. The churches generally welcomed the nationalization of schools and hospitals, the delegation reported, because the services of health care and education can now be made available to the whole population rather than only to a privileged community.

EPS

ERITREA HAS INTER-CONFESSIONAL PAPER

Asmara, Ethiopia (EPS) - A four-page ecumenical newspaper published every Sunday through joint efforts of Lutheran, Orthodox and Roman Catholic churches is reaching 250,000 people in the Eritrean region of Ethiopia. It contains church news, Bible quotations and meditations and prayers.

The paper has no name as yet but the front page contains a picture of three people joining hands and the words "You are all brethren".

EPS



EUROPEAN YOUTH CONCERNED  
OVER JUSTICE FOR MIGRANTS

Glax, Switzerland (EPS) - Major blame for the problems of migrant workers was laid at the door of the capitalist system by young Europeans attending a recent consultation organized by the Ecumenical Youth Council of Europe (EYCE).

Reflecting on the theme "Justice and Migration", the 52 young people from 18 countries concentrated on the economic and political factors producing the migration of 10 million European workers, the social inequalities which lead to their exploitation, and the means for constructing a new society.

In a final declaration the participants said: "We have studied the concept of justice in the Bible, and we have noted a difference between law as it is interpreted in Europe today and justice as it is seen in the Bible. Justice is realized in the liberation of the oppressed."

Desiring to act in solidarity with fellow human beings, the young people suggest several means to do this. "The construction of a new social order demands involvement in trade unions and political organisations which propose to change the present socio-political and economic system", they say. It also requires giving priority to the demands of migrant workers for the same rights as native workers, and supporting migrants' organisations.

Declaring that the churches "continue to transmit the dominant ideology", the participants called on the churches to espouse the migrants' cause in the name of justice, to transcend their present interpretation of the Bible and to realise the need for the liberation of all oppressed peoples.

EPS

WEST GERMAN INTER-FAITH GROUP  
WORKS ON MUSLIM MIGRANT PROBLEMS

Frankfurt (EPS) - Protestants, Orthodox, Roman Catholics and Muslims conferred here on 5th May about the problems of Muslims working in the Federal Republic of Germany and the possibilities for Christian cooperation in dealing with such problems.

The Christian-Muslim Working Group with equal numbers from each side is the only such official, ecumenical national group in Western Europe. Christian delegates are named by the Catholic Secretariat for External Affairs, the Greek Orthodox Metropolitan See and the Office of External Affairs of the Evangelical Church in Germany (EKD).

The group spent considerable time on the educational difficulties of Muslim children and concluded it was totally unacceptable that a large number, especially those of Turkish origin, do not attend school. It was suggested that teacher training courses give a more prominent place to the problems experienced by these children. As a step towards eliminating prejudices on both sides, it was proposed that representatives of both communities examine the teaching materials used in the schools.

The next meeting will take up the possibility of Islamic Religious education in West German schools and the rules on food etc.

EPS

CHRISTIAN CONTRIBUTION TO  
HUMAN RIGHTS OUTLINED

Strasbourg, France (EPS) - The search for greater Christian unity is the first obligation of the World Council of Churches. But to work for unity is also to work together for justice.

"If we are concerned about justice", said the Rev. Dwain Epps, a WCC staff member, "then we are political beings in search of the political means to achieve it. Thus human rights are seen by the WCC as a deeply political matter."

Mr Epps, an executive of the Commission of the Churches on International Affairs (CCIA), was addressing a colloquium on "Human Rights and the Christian Churches" held here 7-8 May. The meeting was organised by the International Institute on Human Rights and the Centre for Research and Documentation of Christian Institutions.

For the World Council the question is how to promote more common actions aimed at eradicating the root causes of the most flagrant violations of human rights, said Mr Epps. The Nairobi Assembly last December gave priority to the right to life (to work, adequate food, decent housing, health care and education), the right to self-determination and cultural identity, the right to personal dignity and religious liberty.

Prof. Roger Mehl of Strasbourg, one of eight colloquium speakers, said, "The Protestant churches are engaged in a struggle to gain implementation of human rights on all fronts." Although they were not specifically dealt with by the Reformation Fathers, the Reformation itself played an important role in paving the way for later articulations of human rights. For example, the emphasis on a direct relation between God and Man without the need for an intermediary gave intrinsic value to the individual. The advent of new forms of Christianity in this period brought home to Christians the need to respect those who think differently. The right to be different is a fundamental basis of human rights, Prof. Mehl stated.

In the course of the colloquium, which attracted some 40 people, representatives of the Orthodox and the Roman Catholic traditions explained their conceptions of human rights. The group suggested that an interdisciplinary, international working group should be formed to deal with human rights questions.

EPS

SEVEN US COUNCILS HAVE CATHOLICS

Hartford, Connecticut (EPS) - Nine churches including the Roman Catholic are participating in the new Christian Conference of Connecticut which comes into being on July 1. This brings to seven the number of state councils of churches in the USA having full Catholic participation. Denominations holding membership in the Connecticut unit are African Methodist Episcopal Zion, American Baptist, Lutheran Church in America, Salvation Army, United Church of Christ, United Methodist, United Presbyterian, Episcopal and Roman Catholic.

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# Ecumenical Press Service

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WCC DEVELOPMENT DIRECTOR RAISES  
MORAL ISSUES AT UNCTAD MEETING

Nairobi, 13 May (EPS) - Proposals on commodities and debt relief which have been made by the developing nations to the current UN Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) were termed "realistic and modest" by the development director of the World Council of Churches.

Addressing a plenary session of UNCTAD today (13 May) Mr C.I. Itty of South India said the WCC's member churches hope this conference will not fall below the minimum goals contained in the proposals of the Group of 77 (now 112).

"If we are critical of the proposals", he said, "it is that they have come too late and offer too little in view of the gravity of the situation and the immensity of the needs". He termed "these modest measures" initial steps towards a concerted effort by the family of nations to establish a new international economic order as called for by the UN.

Noting there are "moral issues" behind the seemingly technical proposals, the church development director suggested four considerations for judging any proposal made at the Nairobi meeting.

First, whether it recognizes the basic human right of every person in the world to the necessities of life and society's duty to provide these, and that the resources of the earth belong to the entire human family with no group prevented from meeting their basic material and social needs.

Second, whether the proposal promotes social justice, self-reliance and economic growth.

Third, how a proposal is seen from the perspective of the poor and oppressed.

Fourth, whether the measure is part of a long-range strategy to establish a new international economic order.

Turning to proposals of the developing countries, Mr Itty saw the "integrated programme for commodities" as the first step in a long-term strategy to enhance the purchasing power of the poor nations and to ensure for them a fairer share of world trade. He viewed debt relief as "one aspect of a major strategy required for greater and more automatic redistribution of resources".

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EPS

#### REVIEW COMMITTEE HOLDS FIRST MEETING IN GENEVA

Geneva (EPS) - The process of streamlining the ecumenical ship - the World Council of Churches - for a seven-year voyage through financially troubled waters got under way this week at the Cartigny Conference Centre near here. A 12-member Review Committee had been given this task by the new WCC Central Committee immediately following the Nairobi Assembly.

Under the moderatorship of Archbishop Karekin Sarkissian of the Armenian Apostolic Church, the Review Committee took a first look at how the WCC's programme can be concentrated more clearly around a few themes which affect more than one unit and represent the major emphases of the Council as a whole. They also looked at programme duplication and overlapping and considered how to strengthen the programme unit on education and renewal.

At a second meeting in August the committee will finalise its recommendations on priorities for the Central Committee. This larger body of 134 members, meeting August 10-18, will approve the final shape of the streamlined ship as well as a budget to finance it through 1977.

Members of the Review Committee present in Geneva this week were: Prof. Vitaly Borovoi (USSR), Principal Olle Engstrom (Sweden), Ms Janice Love (USA), Dr Robert Marshall (USA), Dr Emerito Nacpil (Philippines), Bishop Henry Okullu (Kenya), Prof. Josef Smolik (Czechoslovakia), Dr Koson Srisang (Thailand) and Mrs Hildegard Zumach (West Germany). Metropolitan Hazim of Syria and Ms Mercy Oduyoye of Nigeria were unable to attend.

EPS

#### RUSSIAN PRIESTS GET NEW DUTIES

Moscow (EPS) - Two Russian Orthodox priests, Gleb Yakunin and Dmitri Dudko, have been given new assignments by church authorities. The first has become a reader in the parish of Caschnikowo; the second officiates as the second priest in the parish of Grebjawo. Both are in the vicinity of Moscow.

After sending a letter about religious liberty in the USSR to the Fifth Assembly of the World Council of Churches last November, Gleb Yakunin was suspended from his post as reader in a parish near Moscow. He had been forbidden to exercise priestly duties since 1966 on order of Patriarch Alexei after he sent an open letter to the patriarch criticising acts of the Council of Bishops.

The contract of Dmitri Dudko was cancelled on 21 December by the parish council of the Church of the Martyr Nikita in Kabanova. In a letter dated 13 January 1976 (EPS no. 2) his superior, Metropolitan Seraphim of Krutitsky and Kolomna, explained that Dudko had been warned about systematically including political material of an anti-social character in his sermons.

EPS



MOZAMBEICAN CHURCHES FACE  
FUTURE WITH CONFIDENCE

Geneva (EPS) - Optimism regarding the future of the Christian churches in Mozambique and the contribution they can make towards the development of the country was expressed here this week by three church leaders representing the Christian Council of Mozambique (CCM).

In talks with officials of the World Council of Churches, the delegation acknowledged with gratitude aid for humanitarian purposes from the WCC's Programme to Combat Racism to FRELIMO during the struggle for independence. They endorsed the continuing support by WCC member churches and their agencies for the people of Mozambique through the government's programme of health services, education, rural development and social services.

The delegation is headed by Anglican bishop Dinis Sengulane, president of the Christian Council, and includes the Rev. Isaac D. Mahlalela, general secretary of the CCM, and the Rev. Osias Mucache, president of the Presbyterian Church.

They called attention to the difficulties facing the country after 500 years of Portuguese rule, but saw many hopeful signs in the manner in which the country's resources are rallied for the benefit of all people. Support from many sources will be needed to rebuild and establish a stable economy as a new society takes shape, Bishop Sengulane pointed out. He said the churches are ready and willing to throw their full weight behind efforts to build the new society. In which way they will be asked to participate in development depends on decisions that have not yet been made, he added.

The delegation regretted reports of the alleged persecution of Christians, pointing out that the constitution guaranteed the freedom of all "to practise or not to practise" religious exercises. They said arrests have been made solely on the basis of national security and not on religious grounds. Of six missionaries detained five (two Americans and three Brazilians) had already been released. Reports of the persecution of Jehovah's Witnesses were labelled "exaggerated" by Bishop Sengulane. He said the Witnesses are being resettled in villages in which families are reunited, build their own homes and cultivate land to support themselves while leading their communal life undisturbed.

Further dispelling reports of government interference with religious life, the delegation reported membership increases in church congregations, particularly among the younger generation. Bishop Sengulane said that the number of Anglican congregations in the Maputo area (formerly Lourenço Marques) had increased by four since independence last June as against three additions in the 10 preceding years. The churches generally welcomed the nationalization of schools and hospitals, the delegation reported, because the services of health care and education can now be made available to the whole population rather than only to a privileged community.

EPS

## ERITREA HAS INTER-CONFESSIONAL PAPER

Asmara, Ethiopia (EPS) - A four-page ecumenical newspaper published every Sunday through joint efforts of Lutheran, Orthodox and Roman Catholic churches is reaching 250,000 people in the Eritrean region of Ethiopia. It contains church news, Bible quotations and meditations and prayers.

The paper has no name as yet but the front page contains a picture of three people joining hands and the words "You are all brethren".

EPS

EUROPEAN YOUTH CONCERNED  
OVER JUSTICE FOR MIGRANTS

Glax, Switzerland (EPS) - Major blame for the problems of migrant workers was laid at the door of the capitalist system by young Europeans attending a recent consultation organized by the Ecumenical Youth Council of Europe (EYCE).

Reflecting on the theme "Justice and Migration", the 52 young people from 18 countries concentrated on the economic and political factors producing the migration of 10 million European workers, the social inequalities which lead to their exploitation, and the means for constructing a new society.

In a final declaration the participants said: "We have studied the concept of justice in the Bible, and we have noted a difference between law as it is interpreted in Europe today and justice as it is seen in the Bible. Justice is realized in the liberation of the oppressed."

Desiring to act in solidarity with fellow human beings, the young people suggest several means to do this. "The construction of a new social order demands involvement in trade unions and political organisations which propose to change the present socio-political and economic system", they say. It also requires giving priority to the demands of migrant workers for the same rights as native workers, and supporting migrants' organisations.

Declaring that the churches "continue to transmit the dominant ideology", the participants called on the churches to espouse the migrants' cause in the name of justice, to transcend their present interpretation of the Bible and to realise the need for the liberation of all oppressed peoples.

EPS

WEST GERMAN INTER-FAITH GROUP  
WORKS ON MUSLIM MIGRANT PROBLEMS

Frankfurt (EPS) - Protestants, Orthodox, Roman Catholics and Muslims conferred here on 5th May about the problems of Muslims working in the Federal Republic of Germany and the possibilities for Christian cooperation in dealing with such problems.

The Christian-Muslim Working Group with equal numbers from each side is the only such official, ecumenical national group in Western Europe. Christian delegates are named by the Catholic Secretariat for External Affairs, the Greek Orthodox Metropolitan See and the Office of External Affairs of the Evangelical Church in Germany (EKD).

The group spent considerable time on the educational difficulties of Muslim children and concluded it was totally unacceptable that a large number, especially those of Turkish origin, do not attend school. It was suggested that teacher training courses give a more prominent place to the problems experienced by these children. As a step towards eliminating prejudices on both sides, it was proposed that representatives of both communities examine the teaching materials used in the schools.

The next meeting will take up the possibility of Islamic Religious education in West German schools and the rules on food etc.

EPS

CHRISTIAN CONTRIBUTION TO  
HUMAN RIGHTS OUTLINED

Strasbourg, France (EPS) - The search for greater Christian unity is the first obligation of the World Council of Churches. But to work for unity is also to work together for justice.

"If we are concerned about justice", said the Rev. Dwain Epps, a WCC staff member, "then we are political beings in search of the political means to achieve it. Thus human rights are seen by the WCC as a deeply political matter."

Mr Epps, an executive of the Commission of the Churches on International Affairs (CCIA), was addressing a colloquium on "Human Rights and the Christian Churches" held here 7-8 May. The meeting was organised by the International Institute on Human Rights and the Centre for Research and Documentation of Christian Institutions.

For the World Council the question is how to promote more common actions aimed at eradicating the root causes of the most flagrant violations of human rights, said Mr Epps. The Nairobi Assembly last December gave priority to the right to life (to work, adequate food, decent housing, health care and education), the right to self-determination and cultural identity, the right to personal dignity and religious liberty.

Prof. Roger Mehl of Strasbourg, one of eight colloquium speakers, said, "The Protestant churches are engaged in a struggle to gain implementation of human rights on all fronts." Although they were not specifically dealt with by the Reformation Fathers, the Reformation itself played an important role in paving the way for later articulations of human rights. For example, the emphasis on a direct relation between God and Man without the need for an intermediary gave intrinsic value to the individual. The advent of new forms of Christianity in this period brought home to Christians the need to respect those who think differently. The right to be different is a fundamental basis of human rights, Prof. Mehl stated.

In the course of the colloquium, which attracted some 40 people, representatives of the Orthodox and the Roman Catholic traditions explained their conceptions of human rights. The group suggested that an interdisciplinary, international working group should be formed to deal with human rights questions.

EPS

SEVEN US COUNCILS HAVE CATHOLICS

Hartford, Connecticut (EPS) - Nine churches including the Roman Catholic are participating in the new Christian Conference of Connecticut which comes into being on July 1. This brings to seven the number of state councils of churches in the USA having full Catholic participation. Denominations holding membership in the Connecticut unit are African Methodist Episcopal Zion, American Baptist, Lutheran Church in America, Salvation Army, United Church of Christ, United Methodist, United Presbyterian, Episcopal and Roman Catholic.

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# Ecumenical Press Service

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QUESTIONS ON CONCILIARITY  
POSED FOR FAITH AND ORDER

Rome (EPS) - The concept of conciliar fellowship, contemporary formulations of the Christian faith, the unity of the Church and the unity of humanity, agreements on Baptism, Eucharist and Ministry, as well as a concrete proposal on intercessory prayer were among the major points debated by the Faith and Order Core Group which met at Arricia near here recently.

Numerous statements of faith have been received in Geneva since a Faith and Order study was launched in 1972 on "Giving Account of the Hope that is in Us". It will be useful, said the core group to continue gathering statements from various continents illustrating how Christians respond in faith to specific situations. Later the commission will see whether it is possible to extract a formulation of hope that is common to all the churches.

The Nairobi Assembly with its focus on conciliar fellowship was the first time the goal of the search for Christian unity had been described so explicitly, Arricia participants noted. Recalling that the search for unity was the task of the whole World Council of Churches, the core group suggested that Faith and Order immediately seek answers to such questions as the following: How do we see conciliar fellowship being realized at local, regional and international levels? Is it necessary to make new efforts toward sacramental fellowship? How does one move from the pre-conciliar to the conciliar stage? Can this fellowship provide for a new style of ecumenical life?

How will the agreements on Baptism, Eucharist and Ministry contribute to the growth of conciliar fellowship? A consultation will be held in June 1977 to evaluate the reactions of the churches around the world, which should be received in Geneva by the end of this year. At the invitation of the churches in the Swiss Canton of Vaud, this meeting will be in Lausanne where the Faith and Order Commission met for the first time exactly 50 years ago.

Whereas the churches are talking more and more with each other, reaching common decisions and acting together, the core group was informed that further in-depth study was needed on the teaching authority of the Church. A booklet of study suggestions is already available. A small colloquium is proposed for September/October 1977.

In addition Faith and Order expressed a wish to continue its collaboration with other sub-units in the WCC, such as the Programme to Combat Racism, Dialogue with People of Living Faiths and Ideologies especially on theological questions which emerge in their work. Close cooperation is envisaged with the Sub-unit on Women in a study on "The community of Women and Men in the Church".

Following a suggestion by the Fifth WCC Assembly that the churches be encouraged "to pray for one another", Faith and Order has been entrusted with the task of preparing, by Pentecost 1977, a prayer calendar enabling WCC member churches to pray for each other, mentioning the specific situation of each church and the problems it faces in exercising its ministry. This prayer cycle will be carried out in cooperation with the Roman Catholic Church.

EPS

CHURCH AND SOCIETY ASKED TO SET  
CRITERIA FOR SUSTAINABLE SOCIETY

Glion, Switzerland (EPS) - The contribution of faith, science and technology in the struggle for a just and sustainable society is the theme proposed for the Church and Society Sub-unit over the next-seven year period.

"We see clearly that in order to survive at all, society has to be both just and sustainable", said members of the Sub-unit's core group which met here 14-19 May. This means a society whose population is such that each individual can feel secure his or her quality of life will be maintained with the limited resources available.

In the next few years this will require a radically different approach to patterns of growth and consumption, whether in terms of energy, food production or the current requirements for new technology. It was recommended that the World Council of Churches organize an international conference on criteria for realizing the just and sustainable society. Various preparatory consultations would need to precede it.

It was clearly seen at Glion that a new understanding of risk assessment and the search for more appropriate technology were indispensable. This would involve better means for comparing the anticipated gains with the cost to society resulting from the use of new technologies.

At Glion a campaign of awareness-building and action was proposed. The World Council would be asked to encourage among member churches in industrial countries a reduction in energy consumption. The savings could be used to finance pilot projects in under-developed countries producing energy by means of "soft technology" (solar, wind, geo-thermal and others).

A colloquium in mid-1977 would draw up an inventory of appropriate methods of energy production, emphasizing available alternatives adapted to the specific needs and possibilities of a given place.

Meanwhile it was suggested at Glion that the WCC continue its enquiry into the role of and problems created by nuclear energy in the countries which are developing this method of technology. An advisory group on energy was proposed to help the Church and Society Sub-unit in this research. This group would also investigate and report on the feasibility studies presently under way on large-scale solar energy conversion with the special concern to remove commercial restraints on this type of energy production.

The crisis in food production and the need for new approaches to agricultural technology is also included among the themes of the new Church and Society programme. This would include a new examination of world food reserve, the development of appropriate food technologies, and a critique of present food technologies in developed countries.

Included in the programme is a new consideration of the relation between theology and science.

"By making possible for the first time large-scale interference by man with his environment, science and technology raise ethical problems which lie beyond the traditional insights of the Christian community", the core group said.

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Theologians need to reformulate, in language understandable to lay people, doctrines on the relation between God, Man and Nature. Simultaneously it is necessary to make a critical evaluation of the scientific world-view including its expression in such current ideologies as liberal humanism, scientific-technological progressivism and marxism.

EPS

#### DIALOGUE GROUP WANTS TO CLARIFY ISSUES

Geneva (EPS) - Following spirited exchanges at the Nairobi Assembly over dialogue with people of living faiths and ideologies, the core group of the Dialogue Sub-unit agreed last week to work towards "greater specificity and clarification" of the issues involved.

The very word dialogue has its own unclarity, they said. "There is an urgent need for clarification of the nature, the purpose and the variations of dialogue. Dialogue is certainly neither a substitute for, nor part of, a strategy of mission".

Noting the need for fresh interpretation of the words: "Confessing Christ", "witness", "mission" and "dialogue" in their inter-relationship, the core group expressed the hope that the Commission on World Mission and Evangelism would work on this, taking into account the work of the Dialogue Sub-unit.

The core group stressed the importance of understanding dialogue as being with partners and concerned with specific issues, which cannot be defined unilaterally by the Christian partner.

As part of its own programme, the core group proposed to renew the discussion on "Dialogue in Community" within the churches by calling a major theological consultation. This would carry on the unfinished Nairobi debate on seeking community. The common search for community is "the necessity of human and humane and neighbourly life in a world like ours", the core group affirmed.

They suggested that the consultation should define the Christian basis for seeking community, indicate the nature of the Christian community within the total human community, and suggest "how those living in pluralist situations can be a community of service and witness without diluting their faith or compromising commitment to Christ. In addition the consultation should ask: "Is God at work among other faiths?"

Other issues from Nairobi to be taken up with the churches are those of ideologies and syncretism. All societies, including the Christian West, have ideological components, the group said, which must be taken into account in the dialogue with institutionalized ideologies.

The fears of syncretism expressed by Western participants at the Assembly are to be discussed in a special "enquiry" in Europe, which will seek to examine the roots of the fear in Western cultural situations.

At the same time the Sub-unit on Dialogue with People of Living Faiths and Ideologies will continue its programme of dialogue with Jews, Muslims, Hindus, Buddhists and people of primal world views. Emphasis will be on specific issues.

For example, a question to be discussed with the Jewish community is the relation of Judaeo-Christian doctrines of creation to science and technology. The religious

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dimension of humanity's relation to nature is also a possible area of discussion with Hindus and Buddhists. Exploration will also take place to find ways of deepening Christian-Muslim contacts and in particular how regional dialogues can be strengthened, for example, in the Middle East.

The core group looked at preliminary budget projections and suggested names for the remaining places on the sub-unit committee to the Central Committee. Present for the Chambésy meetings were Prof. D.C. Mulder of the Free University of Amsterdam, who moderated the group; Dr. Margrethe Brown, an American theologian; Prof. Ihromi, rector of a theological college in Indonesia; Dr. Gabriel Setiloane, an African theologian from Botswana; Dr. Krister Stendahl, dean of Harvard Divinity School; and Prof. U Kyaw Than from Burma, who is presently teaching at Yale Divinity School.

EPS

#### NAIROBI EMPHASES SPELLED OUT BY EDUCATION/RENEWAL UNIT

Geneva (EPS) - A new emphasis on the corporate life of the People of God will guide the work of the Programme Unit on Education and Renewal (Unit III) during the next few years, by agreement of the core groups which met last week at Cartigny near here.

"Now that various other programmes of the World Council of Churches are championing the powerless and their liberation, Unit III can concentrate on the renewal of Christian communities", said one core group.

Unit III has traditionally represented the interests of women, youth, Christian education, the laity, family life and renewal movements.

As a result of active campaigning, the Nairobi Assembly last December recognized these hitherto powerless groups as important parts of the Council's constituency and gave permission for four separate sub-units within Unit III. Last week saw the first meetings of core groups on Education; Youth; Women in Church and Society; and Renewal and Renewal Ministries. Their joint report will go to the Review Committee examining all WCC programmes with a view to setting priorities. Whether all proposals get a green light will depend on the prospects for finding funds in the churches.

The Renewal Sub-Unit indicated it would give major attention to congregational life as the primary place for worship, spiritual formation and personal development. It will cooperate with the Faith and Order Secretariat in a project on worship and spirituality, making sure that the "lived experiences" of lay people are included. It also proposed a self-study programme for local congregations, following the same pattern as that used in the highly successful programme on "Family Power and Social Change".

A series of regional consultations on "The Laity Today: New Trends" was suggested, with Roman Catholic participation an important component. And a further programme would bring together persons from conflict situations so they might meditate together, share their pain and experiences, reflect on the faith that sustains them and build a sense of community.

Young people from Jamaica, Zaire, New Zealand, Switzerland, the USSR and the USA (the majority veterans of the Nairobi Assembly) suggested an international ecumenical forum in which youth engaged in political witness for social justice could share their experiences with other youth. Contacts were also suggested with youth who have been working on educational issues.

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The Youth Core Group put special emphasis on the needs of rural youth. It asked the WCC's general secretary to organize a task force through which all sub-units concerned about rural development could collaborate.

With a desire to involve young people more fully in the life of the World Council and the churches, the Youth Core Group pressed for their inclusion in studies projected on worship, spirituality, and armaments, militarism and nonviolent strategies, as well as the ongoing study on "Giving Account of Hope".

The Core Group on Women in Church and Society gave priority to two programmes: a study of "Women and Men in the Church" and a programme for the development of rural women.

The first has already been launched in cooperation with the Faith and Order Secretariat. It seeks to enlist local groups in studying the way in which language and imagery - biblical, theological and common usage - have distorted the understanding of the community of men and women, the Church. A consultation to gather up the findings of various groups is proposed for mid-1978.

The programme to aid rural women got its impetus from the 1974 Berlin Sexism Consultation which recommended that during International Women's Year projects be directed towards women suffering from the worst conditions of rural poverty. Now the core group has voted to make this a major focus of the sub-unit for the next few years. Funds will be sought to help rural women in the Third World achieve self-development through small-scale projects initiated at local level. The money would be distributed in a less formal and therefore faster manner than in large-scale development programmes. Leadership development would be an important element in the programme.

With a view to increasing women's participation in Church and Society, the group asked the Women's Desk to stand ready to respond to requests for aid from national or local women's groups helping women prepare to accept responsibility for the development of their churches and communities.

The Education Core Group gave top priority to Christian education. It projected basic work on "theological and biblical foundations, catechetics and the identification of the effective ways in which the lifestyle of congregations educates the members".

A new programme for the theological education of the whole people of God was promised. In this connection the sub-unit desires to work in close cooperation with the Theological Education Programme.

At the request of the Nairobi Assembly, children got special mention. The Church was asked to be "the children's advocate and prevent their becoming objects of indoctrination and injustices in either general or church education".

The sub-unit will continue to help member churches reappraise the role of church-sponsored schools to liberate them from "elitism" and to see that they foster human development and nation-building. "As schools close, new forms of Christian education and leadership approaches should be developed", it was stated.

It was proposed that the WCC-sponsored Scholarship Fund revise its rules with regard to age limit, length of study period and place of study, and provide more training opportunities for women.

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Special attention was given to education for ecumenism, which is a concern of the whole unit. The final report said:

"Education for ecumenism is the enabling of the whole people of God to participate in the Church's life and mission, to discover Christian unity where they live and work, and to share in the creation of a community of justice and liberation ... The laity will be the special focus of these efforts".

On style of work, the unit agreed there would be limited areas of special concern; each programme would take the regions seriously; there would be more collaboration with other units in the WCC; and communication with the constituency would be a major goal.

Unit III's aim, agreed at Nairobi, is "to enable persons, communities and institutions to participate as fully as possible in the changes that faith in God in Christ calls for in them, in the renewal of churches and in the transformation of society". Nairobi said all programmes should keep in mind (a) the need for bold articulation of the Christian faith; (b) enablement of the People of God for witness and service; and a new emphasis on the congregation.

The unit has nine staff members but would need several additional staff to carry out the new programmes projected at Cartigny.

EPS

#### JUSTICE AND SERVICE CORE GROUPS LOOK TO THE FUTURE

Geneva (EPS) - Programme emphases in the areas of Justice and Service were hammered out here last week by core groups of the four sub-units which go to make up Unit II of the World Council of Churches. In so doing they utilized guidelines offered by the Fifth Assembly last December and clarified by the Review Committee at its meeting earlier this month.

Meeting at the Ecumenical Institute near here were core groups for the Churches' Participation in Development (CCPD); International Affairs (CCIA); the Programme to Combat Racism (PCR); and the Commission on Inter-Church Aid, Refugee and World Service (CICARWS).

The core group for CICARWS reported a growing emphasis among supporting agencies on sharing of human resources as well as materiel, and encouraging church programmes addressed to the needs of the poor and oppressed. It outlined the future for emergency services, refugee services and social welfare. It commended the expansion and Third World procurement policies of the CICARWS material aid programme. Regional participation and local decision-making processes will continue to be stressed in ministries to the poorest section of communities.

The CICARWS discussion also resulted in agreement to extend the ecumenical team in the Sahel region of Africa by one more year, in order to facilitate the widespread ecumenical programme developing there. An extensive report of the present situation in Guatemala was heard, including recommendations that an ecumenical representative should be engaged to act as a center of collaboration between agencies, local Christians, churches and projects there. Greatest attention will be paid by relief and rehabilitation groups active in Guatemala to the poor sectors of the population in the rebuilding of damaged areas. In this, the self-determination of the people will be a vital factor.

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Preliminary plans for revising the role of the WCC Migration Secretariat were unveiled. This office is an activity of Unit II as a whole but is responsible to the CICARWS director in matters of finance and administration.

The CCPD report indicated four main areas of programme: (1) assisting churches to review their theological outlook, patterns of life, structures and organization to manifest and foster their solidarity with the poor and the oppressed and such development goals as justice, self-reliance and people's participation; (2) continuing to assist churches to plan, implement and evaluate development programmes in which the poor are the active agents and immediate beneficiaries; (3) assisting churches to provide support to the organizations of the poor and the oppressed engaged in combatting poverty, injustice and dependence; (4) engaging churches in an action/reflection process, including studies, development education and political action, towards a just, participatory society on local, national and world levels.

The report saw serious limitations in the traditional way of undertaking development projects aimed at the betterment of the poor. A far better way of participation in development is to provide support for the self-reliant efforts of the poor communities for their own conscientization, organization and capacitation (empowerment). The group endorsed continuation of the network strategy including intense engagement of CCPD, on an experimental basis, in certain countries such as Indonesia, India, Ethiopia, Cameroon and the Caribbean.

The CCIA core commission set four programme priorities, all designed to maintain the ongoing work of the commission, to study Assembly concerns and to develop international affairs concerns in the churches. The commission identified militarism as the major issue which is emerging as central to economic exploitation, racial discrimination and oppression.

The promotion of national self-determination, appropriate intervention in crisis situations, in-depth studies on important issues such as economic injustice between nations and within nations, are among issues CCIA is to pursue in many ways including cooperation with the UN. Priorities for UN-related work should be in the field of human rights, disarmament and a New International Economic Order.

The commission further agreed CCIA should improve communication and information-sharing with the churches to bring international concerns to the local church, member church bodies and ecumenical groups. On disarmament, the arms race and militarism, the CCIA report suggested a major consultation in 1978 to examine especially the impact of the arms race on developing countries.

The CCIA sub-unit said follow-up of the human rights issue outlined in detail in the Section V report of the Nairobi Assembly will require close cooperation with PCR and the Sub-unit on Women of Unit III. The CCIA core commission requested further discussion on "the modalities for the location of the programmatic and action extension" of the Assembly's broad concerns for human rights.

In a review of racism across the world, the PCR Sub-unit said the situation in Southern Africa must retain high priority: the withdrawal of investments from South Africa, Namibia and Zimbabwe, coupled with efforts to end white migration, and the discouraging of tourism to these countries. The report drew attention to the plight and struggle of Latin American Indians, singled out land rights in Australia, New Zealand and the Pacific Islands as signs of discrimination to be fought, and urged attention to the relationships between Malay, Chinese and Indian peoples in South-east Asia, as well as the discrimination experienced by Japanese-born Koreans. In North America, the PCR report pointed out, the black people remain essentially

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in the same, if not worse, position than a decade ago. It urged solidarity with these groups as well as with Native Americans fighting treaty violations and the usurpation of their land and rights. An exchange of information between racially oppressed groups in Europe and the USA was urged.

The question of land, mineral and water rights and related cultural and political issues which PCR's work with Native Americans, Latin American Indians and Aborigines of Australasia time and again brings into focus, needs to be a joint study-for-action project of CCPD, CCIA and CICARWS, the PCR report said.

High on the agenda of PCR is a continuation of its theological reflection on the implications of racism as sin, underlining the need for the churches to examine their own attitudes as well as their educational materials. Further the PCR Sub-unit suggested a close look at transnational corporations and their support of racial oppression and the response - or lack of it - of the banks which were asked to end bank loans to racist regimes in Southern Africa. Initiatives by PCR are called for in the light of new bank loans to South Africa, the report stated. A seminar on this subject was suggested.

All four reports indicated several areas for intra-unit cooperation. Action-oriented study programmes aimed at the search for a new society will be one such effort. Specific issues such as militarism, transnational corporations, the New International Economic Order, appropriate technology and new styles of living will receive priority attention in the coming period.

EPS

POTTER TO CONFER WITH WEST  
GERMAN GOVERNMENT LEADERS

Geneva (EPS) - Dr. Philip A. Potter, general secretary of the World Council of Churches, will confer with leaders of the Federal Republic of Germany in Bonn, June 1 - 3. Planned are conversations with Chancellor Helmut Schmidt, President Walter Scheel, Foreign Minister J.W. Gentscher, Minister for Development Cooperation Egon Bahr, and Messrs. Wischniewski and Herms of the German Foreign Office. Dr. Potter will also meet with former Chancellor Willy Brandt who is the chairman of the SPD and Mr. Biedenkopf, general secretary of the CDU. Discussions will deal with the recent UNCTAD conference, a new international economic order, the Helsinki accord as well as the situation in the Near East, South Africa and Latin America. The question of militarism and international arms trade are among additional subjects. Arrangements for Dr. Potter's visit were made by the Evangelical Church in Germany (EKD) through its representative to the Federal Government in Bonn, Bishop Hermann Kunst.

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SODEPAX PROGRAMME TO MOBILIZE  
CHURCH OPINION FOR NEW SOCIETY

Geneva (EPS) - A three-year programme to get more ecumenical groups engaged in the search for a new society was launched here this month by SODEPAX, the joint Committee on Society, Development and Peace of the World Council of Churches and the Pontifical Commission Justice and Peace. Major focus at this time is on the world economic situation and the power of people to transform unjust social structures.

A special issue of the SODEPAX bulletin Church Alert suggests three "points of entry": a new international economic order (NIEO) proposed at the UN General Assembly in 1975; new development patterns based on the participation of the poor; and mobilization of humanity's material and spiritual resources to sustain life.

"Local workshops should be the backbone of the programme", said the Rev. John Lucal, S.J., general secretary of SODEPAX. "But churches in a particular country may also want to hold a nationwide consultation to debate the implications of the search for a just and sustainable world society for their country".

SODEPAX will provide relevant UN documents, recent church statements and analyses by internationally known experts.

Within the next few months Father Lucal and his associate, the Rev. Theo Tschuy, will discuss the programme with SODEPAX groups in various countries, national Justice and Peace Commissions, bishops' conferences and national Christian councils, as well as lay academies. They especially want Third World churches to participate.

"In international gatherings such as the WCC's Nairobi Assembly", said Mr. Tschuy, "the churches of the industrial countries usually do all the talking. SODEPAX wants to help Third World churches reflect systematically on these problems so they will be able to talk back".

"We want to get a real dialogue going", added Father Lucal, "based not on resentment but on brotherhood and a common faith vision".

A key section of the study proposal deals with "new openings for theological reflection". Noting that the churches have traditionally stressed a concern for the poor, the downtrodden and the oppressed, it says: "As the gulf between rich and poor widens... it has become evident that the love Christ calls for requires more than simply giving to the poor. One of the major obstacles to Christians, particularly those in the Western tradition, often lies in their individualistic theological outlook.... This makes it difficult for them to think of communitarian forms of theology which could prepare the ground for a Christian understanding of a 'new humanity' and a 'new earth'".

Ecumenical groups are therefore asked to concentrate on "how to arrive at a basic vision of faith rather than on particular theological interpretations".

Acknowledging that their parent bodies have already done considerable work on development, the two SODEPAX secretaries still maintain: "Ours is the only worldwide programme that's mobilizing Christians of all churches to work together for a common vision of a new society. In their teachings the churches have laid the foundations, now we have to do something", they conclude.

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SOPEPAX plans to utilize the networks of contacts already established by the Justice and Peace Commission and the WCC's Commission on the Churches' Participation in Development (CCPD). It sees its function as that of animator and clearing house for ideas thrown up by local and national groups.

This is the third phase in SOPEPAX's development, according to Father Lucal. In the early years after its formation in 1968 it encouraged large international gatherings. Phase two concentrated on a few areas (e.g. Asia and Northern Ireland). Now the centre of gravity has shifted to the local level.

This is the first programme effort of the new staff team. Father Lucal, who became general secretary on May 1, is a Jesuit priest from the USA with a background in political science and international affairs. Before coming to Geneva he was an adviser to the Mission of the Holy See to the UN. Mr. Tschuy is a Swiss Methodist minister who gained experience in development work as Latin America secretary for the WCC's Commission on Inter-Church Aid, Refugee and World Service.

Acting moderators of the committee are Mr. C.I. Itty, coordinator of the WCC's Programme Unit on Justice and Service, and Msgr. Andrea di Montezemolo, pro-secretary of the Pontifical Commission Justice and Peace. SOPEPAX is based at the Ecumenical Centre in Geneva.

EPS

NEW FUTURE FOR "BOSSEY"  
EXPLORED BY CORE GROUP

Geneva (EPS) - The viability of the Ecumenical Institute as a training ground for future ecumenical leaders was affirmed by the six-person core group on "Bossey" which met here recently. At the same time the group saw the need to reach out to the churches, to regional ecumenical centres and other ecumenical partners throughout the world to maximize the Institute's impact and bring it into closer relationship to the life of the churches.

A communique from the core group said the financial crisis of the parent World Council of Churches had precipitated a lively discussion on the Ecumenical Institute's future. It became clear this must involve a review of the programme, closer ties with the WCC, its staff and sub-units and extension work in the regions.

"The Ecumenical Institute has an invaluable role to play for the WCC and the ecumenical movement", said the communique. "It is an instrument for the formation of present and future generations of ecumenical leadership, increasing the communication and understanding among the churches, and a living context for theological encounter with the emerging issues of the ecumenical movement. The urgency of these tasks has in no way diminished in recent years. In fact it has been heightened in this transitional era of the WCC's life".

The core group candidly faced the Institute's precarious financial situation. It learned that actions had been taken to reduce the 1976 budget by SwFr. 200,000. The group then decided that the projected 1977 budget should be cut by 10% to a total of SwFr. 1,879,590. Special funding has been secured to assure a balanced budget for 1976 and efforts are being made to raise emergency funds for 1977. Creative efforts are under way to find a long-term solution to financing the Institute. A special reserve fund has been set up and contributions are being actively sought from churches and individuals.

The core group reiterated its faith in the potential of "a new Bossey, ready and equipped for vital service to the WCC and the ecumenical movement. With the full partnership of the churches and the WCC, we face the immediate years ahead with confidence", it concluded.

EPS

PREPARATIONS FOR PAN-ORTHODOX  
COUNCIL TO START IN OCTOBER

Geneva (EPS) - The Orthodox Church will hold its first preparatory conference for the Panorthodox Council at the Orthodox Centre of the Ecumenical Patriarchate at Chambésy near Geneva, probably sometime in October. The conference must reach unanimous agreement on the agenda and the details of procedure for the Panorthodox Great Council.

On a brief visit to Geneva, Metropolitan Meliton of Chalcedon, who recently headed a delegation from the Ecumenical Patriarchate which visited 13 autocephalous and autonomous Orthodox churches, stressed that all had expressed the wish that the Panorthodox Council should meet as soon as possible.

They would like the Council to be a 'short' one (i.e. be in session for only one period). It should avoid lengthy theological and theoretical discussions and deal with a limited number of issues that are vital to the life of the Church and of concern to Orthodox clergy and laity alike. It will also provide an opportunity for the Orthodox churches to review their relations with other churches and the ecumenical movement as a whole. Then they can work out a common Orthodox line of action in the search for Christian unity.

With the preparatory conference in mind, the Phanar, seat of the Ecumenical Patriarchate, sent a delegation to visit the Orthodox patriarchates and autocephalous churches of Alexandria, Antioch (Syria), Jerusalem, Moscow, Serbia, Roumania, Bulgaria, Georgia, Cyprus, Greece, Poland, Czechoslovakia, and Finland. Together these include some 150 million Christians.

The delegation which made its visits between April 26 and May 22, consisted of Metropolitan Meliton, dean of the Holy Synod and chairman of the Inter-Orthodox Committee responsible for preparing the Council; Metropolitan Damaskinos of Tra-noupolis, director of the Orthodox Centre at Chambésy and secretary of the preparatory committee; and Father George Tsetsis, high protopresbyter and expert in Orthodox affairs at the World Council of Churches. The Oriental Orthodox churches, called pre-Chalcedonian, are not taking part in this preparatory conference.

EPS

DR. POTTER RECEIVES DEGREE  
FROM UNIVERSITY OF GENEVA

Geneva (EPS) - The University of Geneva has conferred honorary degrees on two leading ecumenists, Dr. Philip A. Potter, general secretary of the World Council of Churches, and Father Yves Congar, one of the pioneers of the movement in France. In presenting the degree to Dr. Potter at ceremonies June 1 Dr. Robert Martin-Achard, dean of the theological faculty, said: "In awarding you the title of doctor honoris causa, the University of Geneva expresses its esteem for you personally and the functions you perform, as well as the importance it attaches to the presence in Geneva of the WCC and its activities". Dr. Potter holds similar degrees from the University of the West Indies (Barbados) and the University of Hamburg.

EPS



## 72,000 BOMBAY SLUM DWELLERS OUSTED TO MAKE WAY FOR ATOMIC SCIENTISTS

Bombay (EPS) - The 72,000 residents of Janata Colony, Bombay's largest slum, last month lost their battle to save their homes from demolition. The winner was the municipality which was determined to clear the land to build additional housing for 3,500 scientists of the nearby Department of Atomic Energy.

Last year the confrontation would have made headlines in the local press, but this year as a result of press censorship almost no one in Bombay has gotten word of the May 15-17 confrontation. Nor is this the only place where the Indian Government is attempting to clean up the cities by putting the poor out of sight. In Delhi 125,000 people were evicted earlier; elsewhere in Bombay 20,000 have been notified to move out by October.

Unlike other slum colonies, Janata residents had a sizable stake in their dwellings. Some, on the site since 1951 and thinking the arrangement permanent, had started cottage industries, usually in their huts, and installed electricity. The colony had churches, temples and mosques, as well as schools, markets and major services. All this will now be demolished.

In a last-ditch effort to stave off eviction Janata residents filed suit in city court May 15. The judge accepted the suit but denied an injunction to stay eviction. A local politician also refused to press for a postponement until after the monsoons.

In preparation for the arrival of the municipal demolition squad on May 17 all entrances to the colony were barricaded by the residents. Leaders urged the demonstrators to remain peaceful. By evening of the 16th some 35 vans of police arrived including the special reserve. They set up a wireless station in the Department of Atomic Energy and brought up sophisticated arms and equipment. In addition they had apparently paid men within the colony to break down internal resistance and spread panic.

Thus when the police moved in early on the morning of May 17, panic was easily created by people running to and fro telling residents it was useless to resist since the police would open fire and children would be hurt. Police then moved in over a wide front and surrounded those resisting near the main entrance. One pregnant woman was badly beaten and resistance subsided without a shot.

By mid-morning the power line was cut, 1,500 individual metres were removed and the colony was full of police and special reserves, almost one per hut. After only a few huts had been demolished the residents volunteered to dismantle their homes rather than have outside demolition crews do it.

The first families to arrive at the alternative site, Cheetah Camp, discovered to their surprise that they were being offered a 10' x 15' pitch (half the size of those at Janata) for only 11 months and required to pay Rs. 85 cash. Resistance developed immediately.

A public meeting in the market that evening was addressed by a Member of Parliament. Afterward 11 men and seven women leaders were arrested. When the crowd protested police charged with lathis (4 foot sticks).

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Leaders met during the night and proposed a hunger strike but young people advocated violence. Since plain-clothes police were everywhere reporting each move, it was decided to call off agitation as it would be suicidal. As a concession the authorities withdrew the demand for Rs. 85 and the signing of the 11-month contract-

The 18 persons arrested on May 17 were released but 41 others have been arrested in various incidents.

At the new site people are left on bare land in the blazing sun. Four children and two adults died due to heat. Food is scarce and the thousands formerly employed in cottage industries are now out of work. There is space for only three-quarters the number of huts as at Janata Colony, so it is unclear where the rest of the people will go.

Churches in Bombay have been closely following the events of recent weeks and more than 40 church people visited Janata Colony during April and some financial assistance was given towards legal expenses.

EPS

CHRISTIAN COMMUNICATORS ADVOCATE  
BOTH TRADITIONAL, MODERN METHODS

Attard, Malta (EPS) - Christian communicators meeting here May 14 to 22 were encouraged to "make use of successfully operated traditional methods of communication" rather than to rely solely on modern mass media technology. The call came from Mr. Christopher Kolade, director general of the Nigerian Broadcasting Corporation and president of the "new" World Association for Christian Communication. In his keynote address to the WACC's 56 member Central Committee, he also urged them to "employ a tactical and judicious combination of initiative and discretion" as their main weapons in the ongoing struggle for greater freedom of thought and expression through the media.

The ecumenical organisation, which last year merged with the Agency for Christian Literature Development (ACLD), is composed of development units for both Print and Electronic Media, together with a Commission for Communication Education and an Alternate (or Group) Media Committee (comprising face-to face communication, signals, symbols, film, photography, music, drama, dance, folklore and the illustrative use of puppets).

These groups met prior to the Central Committee to review reports of work done in the respective units and to consider requests for support from Christian communication projects especially in Asia, Africa and Latin America.

The Central Committee received reports from these as well as regional groups. In the new set-up "regionalisation" is a key word. But, said Dr. Hans W. Florin, WACC general secretary since January 1976, "the solution of our problem does not appear to lie so much in structural provisions as in the quality of the fabric which holds this whole association together: the fellowship of Christian communication". Furthermore, the C.C. allocated about US\$ 1 million for electronic media projects (including, in principle, US\$ 250,000 for Radio Voice of the Gospel in Addis Ababa, a joint project with the Lutheran World Federation), and about US\$ 570,000 for different kinds of Print media-related projects.

It was decided to appoint an additional staff person to pay special attention to the mobilization of resources for the development of "strategic" Christian periodicals

(more)

in the Third World. This and other projects reflect the WACC's growing emphasis on the social aspects of the Christian Gospel, such as working to overcome poverty, illiteracy, disease and unjust social structures.

Dr. Jan van Dis (Netherlands) was elected treasurer succeeding the late Rev. Robert Geisendörfer.

The 92-year old Archbishop of Malta, Msgr. Michael Gonzi, addressed the more than 70 delegates and advisors from 32 countries. More than 200 nuns in six contemplative monasteries prayed for the conference during its nine days of meetings.

EPS

POTTER ASKS SAFEGUARDS  
FOR REFUGEES IN ARGENTINA

Geneva (EPS) - Dr. Philip A. Potter, general secretary of the World Council of Churches, has expressed concern for the safety of refugees and exiled persons in Argentina. In a telegramme to Argentine president, Lieutenant-General Jorge Rafael Videla, Dr. Potter referred to the recent "brutal assassination" in Argentine territory of four Uruguayan exiles which "has deeply shocked worldwide Christian opinion" and called for "most effective measures to clarify facts of these four violations of international and moral laws."

Dr. Potter's cable, sent to Government House in Buenos Aires as well as to the Argentine Mission in Geneva, reacted to the discovery on May 21, along a highway near the Buenos Aires international airport of the bullet-riddled bodies of Zelmar Michelini, former senator of the Colorado Party in Uruguay, and one time Industry and Commerce Minister in that country; Hector Gutierrez Ruiz, former president of the Uruguayan chamber of deputies; and Mr. and Mrs. William Whitelaw, Uruguayan political activists. Both politicians had been in exile since the 1973 "constitutional coup d'état" in Uruguay which brought President Juan Maria Bordaberry into power. They were taken from their homes in the centre of Buenos Aires just 48 hours before they died. The Whitelaws disappeared a week earlier together with their three children Maximo, Maria Victoria and Gabriela, all under four years of age.

Recalling that the WCC Fifth Assembly in Nairobi last December had called on the Argentine Government to normalize speedily the situation of political refugees and exiles, Dr. Potter said, "We are convinced that it (the Argentine Government) shall not tolerate any outside interference violatory of sovereign Argentine jurisdiction nor condone any extremist actions against refugees or exiled persons ..." He paid tribute to the "longstanding Argentine Christian and democratic tradition and respect for the human right of asylum" which the military government reconfirmed when they assumed power in March. Unofficial estimates place the number of Uruguayan migrants presently in Argentina at more than one million; many of them are refugees.

Dr. Potter coupled his call for measures to prevent further harm to refugees and exiles in Argentina with a plea for immediate steps to save and protect the three Whitelaw children.

(After being held for three weeks in a police station, the children were turned over to their grandfather on 29 May and taken back to Uruguay, according to late reports reaching Geneva.)

(Meanwhile, the Permanent Mission of Argentina in Geneva has acknowledged Dr. Potter's telegramme and referred to a statement of the Ministry of Interior, announcing a Federal Police investigation of this "disgraceful" and "tragic" event for which subversive elements are blamed.)

EPS

FRENCH CHURCHES OPPOSE  
NUCLEAR SALE TO SOUTH AFRICA

Glax, France (EPS) - The Council of the French, Protestant Federation issued a statement May 30 protesting the sale of two nuclear reactors to the Republic of South Africa. During its session here the body expressed its disapproval of "this kind of commercial transaction". The vote was 19 for the motion to censure, one against and 10 abstentions.

It stated that domestic economic concerns would not justify a step which risks the spread of nuclear weapons. Besides, it stressed, this transaction serves to support a regime which rests on an apartheid system "which is leading the people of Africa toward a bloody showdown".

According to the Council, there are other economic means for responding to the real needs of people.

A consortium of French firms known as Framatome, Alsthom and Spie Batignolles has made the "sale of the century" by contracting to construct and equip near the Cape in South Africa a nuclear centre costing more than one billion dollars. Some 85% of the financing will be assured by a consortium of French banks.

When political pressure was exerted in the USA and the Netherlands to prevent export licenses being issued to General Electric, Rijn-Schelde-Verolme and Brown Boveri of Switzerland, the South African Electricity Supply Commission (ESCOM) turned to the French group which obtained the necessary government licenses.

In a television broadcast Dr. Albert van den Heuvel, general secretary of the Netherlands Reformed Church, had earlier warned his government against granting export licenses for the two nuclear power plants as well as the \$350 million credit required as the Dutch share in the contract.

Dr. Beyers Naude, director of the Christian Institute in Southern Africa, had opposed Dutch participation on the grounds that development of a nuclear industry would not only strengthen the hand of the South African Government against the voteless majority within the country but also against "economically captive communities" around South Africa. It would increase the existing threat to the peace of the sub-continent, he cabled friends in the Netherlands.

Other Dutch Christians joining the protest included Prof. J. Verkuyl of the Free University and Prof. H. Fiolet, secretary of the Netherlands Council of Churches. The controversy nearly brought down the Dutch Government.

After conversations between representatives of the All Africa Conference of Churches and the Council of the Evangelical Church in Germany, the latter agreed to call on the West German Government to press private firms "to desist from any nuclear activity in South Africa".

EPS

PACIFIC ISLAND CHURCH RESPONDS  
TO HUMAN RIGHTS LETTER

Noumea, New Caledonia (EPS) - The Evangelical Church of New Caledonia and the Loyalty Islands has responded to the March 19 letter from general secretary Philip A. Potter of the World Council of Churches sent to all member churches in countries which signed the Final Act of the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe.

In his reply Mr. J. Ajapuhnya, general secretary, noted that his church is in an area not normally considered a signatory but it is a French territory.

Of the 10 points in the Helsinki Declaration, the church was concerned most with points 1,7 and 8. "Equality (1) remains theoretical", it said. "The rights of people, fundamental liberties (7) and in particular the right of a people to self-government remain unrecognized". And the letter adds: "In the political turmoil in which we find ourselves our church has not remained silent and will not".

To date 20 member churches of the WCC have answered Dr. Potter's letter which he was directed to send by the Fifth Assembly at Nairobi to ascertain what the 146 churches in the Helsinki signatory countries are doing about religious liberty. He was asked to make a first report to the Central Committee in August. Prior to this a consultation called by the Commission of the Churches on International Affairs (CCIA) will analyze the responses received from the churches.

EPS

INDIAN FUND TO AID  
FAMILIES OF DETAINEES

Tiruvallur, Kerala, India (EPS) - An all-India committee has been formed to provide assistance to the families of political prisoners. Members of the committee are prominent Christians acting in their individual capacities. Relief will be given to those in distress irrespective of their religious or political affiliation.

President of the "detenues Family Distress Relief Committee" are Metropolitan Yuhanon Mar Thoma, a former president of the World Council of Churches; Bishop R.D. Joshi (Bombay, Methodist); Canon Subir Biswas (Calcutta) president of the National Christian Council; and Dr. J.R. Chandran (Bangalore, Church of South India).

An appeal announcing the relief fund noted the signatories were not taking any position regarding the politics and economics of the state of emergency. However, it said, "there are certain moral and humanitarian aspects in the consequences of the present situation with which we are concerned in common.

"One is the large number of members of the recognised opposition parties, trade unions and cultural organisations who continue to be detained without trial for reasons only of their politics or stand based on conscience. More especially we know the distress of some of their families when their bread-winners have been detained without any alternate provision for their support".

The fund will enable the general public in India and the Christian community in particular to "relieve these distressed families as an expression of moral sympathy and humanitarian response in the present situation". Joint secretaries are Dr. M.M. Thomas, former moderator of the WCC Central Committee, and the Rev. M.J. Joseph of Tiruvalla.

EPS

ASIAN TRAINING COURSE STARTS  
SEARCH FOR FRESH TALENT

Singapore (EPS) - To find and train new leadership for the ecumenical movement in Asia, the Christian Conference of Asia is holding a three-month course for 21 participants from 14 different countries.

Only those with no previous overseas training or travel were eligible for the course. No limitations were put on academic standing, age, or occupation but each applicant must have worked closely with a community action programme.

Theme of the course, which began June 1 at Trinity College here, is "The Mission of the Church in Asia Today". For one month participants will hear lectures and talk informally with a variety of Asian leaders including Dr. M.M. Thomas of India, former moderator of the WCC Central Committee; Bishop Paulos Gregorios of the Syrian Orthodox Seminary in Kottayam, South India; CCA staff and lecturers of Trinity College.

During the month of July the "students" will travel in pairs to various Asian countries living in villages and urban areas, ashrams and farm training centres. In each case they will live with the people and try to discover the Church's mission in that particular setting. On August 1 all return to Singapore to reflect on their experience and determine some priorities for their own lives.

"Over the years there has been pressure to have a regional ecumenical centre in Asia", said the Rev. Toshitsugu Arai of Japan who is the CCA's new secretary for education. "The diversity of this remarkable continent is little appreciated by Asians themselves because their historical links with the West have often prevented them from knowing their own neighbours. Yet several factors, including cost, led some Asian leaders to talk of an Asian "Bossey". (The WCC's Ecumenical Institute near Geneva is popularly known as "Bossey"). The new CCA study programme is thus called "the Asian Ecumenical Centre". Dean of the course is Dr. T.V. Philip of Serampore College, India, and the director is the Rev. Keith Dowding of Perth, Australia.

EPS

SWAPO URGES FIRMS TO PAY  
NAMIBIA TAXES TO UN

Walvis Bay, South Africa (EPS) - The internal wing of the South-West African People's Organisation (SWAPO) ended a three-day conference by electing the Rev. Festus Naholo of the Evangelical-Lutheran Ovambo Kavango Church secretary for foreign affairs, called on foreign companies in Namibia to pay taxes to the United Nations and not to the South African Government and issued a sharp condemnation of the large German community and the West German consulate general.

The Germans were accused of exploitation, helping to perpetuate apartheid and honouring Hitler. People of German background make up a large percentage of the white population of Namibia which was a German colony for 30 years before the first world war. The territory is now administered by South Africa in defiance of a United Nations decision. The conference created four new posts on SWAPO's internal executive bringing the total number of officials to 13. The new portfolios are for foreign affairs, transport, interior affairs and labour. One of the new executive members is Mr. Tauno Hatukulipi, director of the Windhoek-based Christian Centre, an interdenominational and multiracial welfare organisation.

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# Ecumenical Press Service

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## WCC GROUP AT HABITAT MAKES PEOPLE'S VOICES HEARD

Vancouver, Canada (EPS) - During the almost two weeks of Habitat '76 the global village gathered here under the auspices of the World Council of Churches. Its shifting population, which totalled 225, included all mainline Protestant denominations, Roman Catholics, one Hindu, one Moslem and one Jew. Dr. Margaret Mead, the noted anthropologist, preached at the ecumenical service at the Habitat Forum on the opening day, May 30.

The WCC had invited 50 people working in local community projects throughout the Third World. Joining them were United Methodist Community Developers from the USA 112 strong, mostly black, Chicanos and Asian-Americans, one-half women, plus 22 Lutherans from West Coast cities. Also part of the "mix" was the Urban Industrial Mission Advisory Group of the WCC's Commission on World Mission and Evangelism -- two persons each from five regions. All formed one coordinated WCC presence at the Habitat Forum. Individually they participated actively in the seminars, workshops, plenary sessions and small "rap" groups at Jerico Beach where an abandoned seaplane base had been converted by the Canadian Government into meeting halls complete with loudspeakers and multilingual translation facilities.

Each day the WCC sponsored "WCC Habitat Storytelling". People from various parts of the Third World related their experiences in working with local people's groups on habitat issues. They vividly portrayed the struggles of native Canadian women; black, Asian and native Americans in US cities; slum-dwellers in Manila's Tondo Foreshorelands and forestry location of Pacific Islanders.

In the afternoon various prominent provocative figures from the group gathered by Barbara Ward for the Habitat Forum came and met with the WCC group. Included were Jorge Hardoy, noted Argentinian architect; John Turner, well-known English architect whose books tell people how to build their own houses; Jun Ui, a leader in the protest against mercury poisoning of Japanese waters.

On June 6 members of the WCC group preached in more than 20 congregations throughout the Vancouver area. They dispersed on June 12 after reviewing what it all meant for churches around the world.

EPS

## LACK OF PEOPLE'S PARTICIPATION IN UN DESIGN CONTEST PROTESTED

Vancouver, Canada (EPS) - A dramatic example of how not to design human settlements was exposed at Habitat '76 when Ms. Jessica White, a Filipino who now serves as secretary for economic justice of the National Council of Churches in the USA, addressed one of the plenary sessions of the Habitat Forum.

In an impassioned speech she outlined the plight and struggle of the Tondo squatters in Manila, one of the largest slums in Asia, where 195,000 people occupy a small section on Manila Bay.

She told how 2,000 persons from Tondo had been arrested in June 5 for trying to demonstrate before the cathedral in Manila's old walled city of Intramuros in favour of ghetto residents' representation at Habitat. (Demonstrations are banned under the present martial law.)

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Ms. White said Tondo residents had been trying to call attention to the fact that they had not been consulted about plans to build a model human settlement on land offered by the Philippine Government in the midst of their squatter settlement. A worldwide contest was mounted by the International Architecture Foundation and the International Union of Architects to provide a design for this new development. Tondo asked to participate in the judging but this was denied.

Five people named by the coalition of squatters' organisations in Manila and invited by the World Council of Churches to come to Vancouver and tell their story were prevented from coming.

In her speech Ms. White criticized the UN Human Settlements Design Contest asking, "How can anyone who has not experienced poverty design for it? This is why 'people's participation' when defined by the experts is sheer rhetoric". It is imperative, she stated, that governments and redevelopment experts stop treating slum dwellers as children.

When Mrs. Imelda Marcos, wife of the Philippines president, addressed the official UN Conference on Human Settlements here more than 200 people demonstrated outside The Queen Elizabeth Theatre. The protest was organized by the Vancouver Anti-Marshall Law Coalition to dramatize the lack of participation of Tondo residents in the contest.

Members of the WCC group at Habitat held several conversations with the prize-winning architect, raising questions about the lack of people's participation.

EPS

#### WCC APPEALS TO MALAWI FOR RELEASE OF DETAINED JEHOVAH'S WITNESSES

Geneva (EPS) - The World Council of Churches has taken up the reported persecution of Jehovah's Witnesses with the Government of Malawi in Central Africa. WCC General Secretary Dr. Philip A. Potter has appealed to Dr. H. Kamuzu Banda, President of Malawi, to release members of the sect now detained in camps or arrested and held in jail. Dr. Potter urged that they be sent back to their villages to lead a normal life.

Representations and reports about the plight of Jehovah's Witnesses in Malawi have been received by the World Council "and the information we have on this matter causes serious concern to us", Dr. Potter said. He told President Banda that these reports particularly refer to members of the sect who have returned recently to Malawi from neighbouring countries. "Substantial evidence" shows that they have been subjected to considerable harassment and persecution by local officials and members of the Youth League, and reports have reached the World Council that many were tortured, Dr. Potter declared. He termed information about Jehovah's Witnesses in detention camps near Dzaleka as "most disturbing".

The World Council is aware of the difficulties that have existed in the last several years between Jehovah's Witnesses and the political authorities, which can be attributed at least in part to the sect's teachings on, and attitude to, the state, the WCC general secretary said. He stressed that the WCC has always encouraged participation by all Christians in the welfare of the countries in which they live.

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"But the fundamental human right of such participation also involves the freedom to dissent as well as the freedom to refuse to join any particular grouping or party", Dr. Potter pointed out. He said Malawi's "apparent policy of compulsory membership" in the Congress Party is felt to be a curtailment of human rights and punitive measures against those who do not take membership are unjustifiable.

Stating that the WCC has attempted to uphold human rights everywhere and for all, Dr. Potter expressed deep concern about Jehovah's Witnesses in Malawi, "especially those who are reported to be in detention or under arrest for refusing to buy membership cards of the Congress Party".

Dr. Potter acknowledged the possibility "that some of the reports which have appeared may not be correct" but reiterated "there is much evidence of continuing hardship caused to the Jehovah's Witnesses by local officials and members of the Youth League" and others.

He requested a reconsideration of the attitude and policies of the government and the Congress Party to the Jehovah's Witnesses and urged conversations with their leaders with a view to exploring how best a lasting solution can be found to the problem. Dr. Potter assured the Malawi president of World Council support and cooperation in such efforts.

EPS

#### CWME CORE GROUP ASKS AID FOR GROUPS DOING EVANGELISM

Geneva (EPS) - Practical programmes for implementing the Nairobi Assembly's mandate to do more about Evangelism were outlined by the core group of the Commission on World Mission and Evangelism of the World Council of Churches when it met near here June 1-5.

The assembly appealed to the WCC to make "the proclamation of the Gospel in all its wholeness the highest priority". It spelled this out by saying: "Our confessing of Christ today would deny God's incarnation if it would be limited to only some areas of life. It concerns the wholeness of human life, our words and acts; our personal and communal existence; our worship and responsible service; our particular and ecumenical context".

The core group suggested "an incarnational style of evangelism, more akin to God's method revealed in Jesus' incarnation, crucifixion and resurrection". Specifically it saw the need to take more seriously the Christian community, its growth, renewal, style of life and structures for mission.

The Commission on World Mission and Evangelism should give priority to supporting such "confessing communities" in the evangelistic task, said the core group.

It recommended several ways in which CWME could assist the practice of evangelism. The first involved developing a network of correspondents to supply information on new methods and models. The second called for consultation on "the theological-pedagogical values" of different methods, and fostering action-reflection on the meaning of evangelism.

At the request of the Review Committee looking over all WCC priorities, CWME will produce a document clarifying among other things the relation between mission and evangelism.

(more)

The Nairobi Assembly's emphasis on the local congregation spurred the core group to recommend a study on the "lifestyle of congregations in mission". It should pay particular attention to new forms of spirituality, experience gained by those ministering among the poor and the oppressed, renewal taking place inside and outside church structures through charismatic groups, and the importance of conciliar fellowship for the lifestyle of congregations.

Cooperation with the Faith and Order Commission in its study "Giving account of Hope" and with the Orthodox churches studying the practice and theology of mission was also recommended.

CWME was asked to support groups involved in raising the issues of the Church's mission among the poor. It should also encourage a process of theological action-reflection in these groups and in cooperation with Theological Education Fund and any other successor programs, make sure that theological schools are equipping their graduates for rural, urban and industrial mission.

Approval was given to continuing the Ecumenical Sharing of Personnel programme. Particularly in Third World regions, intra-regional sharing of personnel and exchanges between Third World continents are desirable. The practical implications of moratorium need more study on national and regional levels. Its goal should be to help the churches move beyond any temporary suspension of funds and personnel to "a more deeply committed mutual relationship". The Education for Mission programme also received a vote of commendation, particularly as it operates through ecumenical team visits which challenge Christians in a single country to see what mission means in their own national situation.

CWME agreed to hold a conference in 1980 in the general area of "mission today". The theme will be formulated after consultation with member churches and councils, Roman Catholics and Conservative Evangelicals, and regional bodies.

A major portion of the core group's time was devoted to a discussion of the future role of the WCC in theological education after the mandate of the Theological Education Fund ends in July 1977. A seven-person task force had been working for two years. Its recommendations were debated and revised and now go to the Review Committee and the WCC Central Committee for final decision.

The core group recommended that

- a concern for theological education should be an integral and identifiable part of the ongoing work of the World Council of Churches; this emphasis to be lodged in the Programme Unit on Faith and Witness;
- building on the experience of TEF in the area of contextualization in Asia, Africa, Latin America, the Caribbean and the Pacific, any future WCC involvement must be concerned with theological education in every continent;
- it should focus on those in the Christian community responsible for equipping others for mission, on the institutions in which they are trained or formed, and on the church bodies responsible for them.

EPS

SWISS MISSION BODY AFFIRMS  
TIES TO OVERSEAS CHURCHES

Monthey, Switzerland (EPS) - The Protestant churches of French-speaking Switzerland will continue their close collaboration with sister churches overseas no matter what the political orientation of their countries.

This decision was taken by the Synod dealing with mission matters, which is composed of representatives of the seven French-speaking cantonal churches. In so doing, it supported a document from the Missionary Department (MD).

The churches were answering questions put to their mission arm after several newly independent countries had opted for socialism and separation of Church and State.

In Mozambique, for instance, the institutions administered by the churches have now been nationalized. Clearly it was necessary to determine whether the MD should continue cooperating with the churches there, and whether to respond to requests for help which could eventually come even from the government.

The action sets a course for the MD, which supports 169 missionaries and their spouses in 20 countries of Asia, Latin America, Africa, Oceania and the Middle East. It makes the following points:

- the Church must minister to all regardless of race, colour or political preference. She must express Christian solidarity with others and refuse to be a captive of any one group by exercising a critical function and proclaiming the Gospel of freedom, justice and love;
- the MD must keep contact with churches in countries of very different political orientation. It refuses to break its ties with Mozambique on the pretext it has a socialist regime or with South Africa because it supports apartheid;
- in relations with overseas churches the MD must keep informed about and try to understand and respect the concept of mission held by these churches;
- the MD, following the example of the World Council of Churches, will not respond to government requests for aid unless the churches agree;
- the MD will continue to work with the Presbyterian Church of Mozambique for the sake of the people of that country.

A theological preamble to the document explained: "Jesus was made man to save all men and the whole man". In exercising its mission "the Church is called to concern itself with the suffering, agony, aspirations, hopes and triumphs of people". But in bearing witness to the new reality which the Bible calls the "Kingdom of God", it must not let itself be imprisoned by contemporary systems, ideologies or cultures. On the contrary, the Christian community must preserve a critical stance with regard to all social structures. It must use imagination in pointing to signs of the Kingdom, find new ideas and devise new structures capable of producing justice and peace and preserving the dignity of people, the document said.

On whether the Church should participate in politics, the synod said: "One must dare to say that the Church by showing solidarity with people and announcing a new world is being political". Each time it tries to redefine its mission in emerging societies, whether they are open or closed to the preaching of the Gospel, the Church suffers and runs the risk of being compromised, by the right or the left, and being accused of politics.

"It is in an uncertain position, which may produce divisions. But, says the document, the risk must be taken; it is ultimately the test of its credibility and faithfulness to the risen Christ".

## FIRST AFRICAN-ASIAN THEOLOGICAL CONSULTATION HELD AT BOSSEY

Geneva (EPS) - The justification for oral theology was clearly shown last weekend when 80 theologians and lay people from 35 countries discussed "African and Asian Contributions to Contemporary Theology".

According to Prof. John Mbiti, director of the Ecumenical Institute at Chateau de Bossey, "This is the first time in living memory that theologians from these two continents have met to discuss common interests". It was also one of the largest consultations held at Bossey, the training centre for the World Council of Churches.

The consultation was intended to be a catalyst, "a theological appetizer", rather than forging a new African or Asian theology. In sharing their experiences participants found great value in the debates and discussions, which may not be adequately reflected in the official report that will eventually be issued. It became clear that oral theology, as practiced on these two continents, is based less on abstract theses and written work than on dialogue, song and artistic endeavours such as theatre and mime.

At Bossey, said a North American pastor Gerald Anderson, oral theology was also done over the teapot and in the corridors. This he found an extraordinary experience.

The debate started in groups dealing with methods of doing theology in Africa and Asia, liturgy and spirituality, Jesus Christ in African and Asian perspectives, Church and Community, and towards a theology of interreligious dialogue.

They were faced by the following dilemma: Moulded primarily by Western theology, participants realised more and more its inadequacy to respond to the demands made on Christians and churches in the African and Asian situation. "African and Asian theology cannot afford to ignore the situations and struggles that exist in our countries", said Mr. T.K. Thomas of Madras, India.

The hope was expressed that African and Asian Christians would have the freedom to do theology in ways appropriate to their respective cultures. They must do it in full recognition of existing realities, hard though they be. And give a vivid testimony of their faith utilizing various forms of expression (statements of faith, community action, arts, the media, etc.).

The Bossey meeting has been an "eye-opener" for a number of the participants. Said a Tanzanian, "We have taken up new questions, concerns and viewpoints. Like the cow that is grazing, we now have to chew them slowly".

EPS

## IRISH PRESBYTERIANS STAY IN WCC

Belfast (EPS) - The General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church of Ireland has voted to retain its membership in the World Council of Churches. The vote was 481 for 381 against. The action was considered significant in terms of the Irish church scene. The issue was debated at last year's assembly but the vote was delayed until after the WCC's Nairobi Assembly, which was attended by several people from this church in addition to the official delegates. The affirmative vote came after a full discussion of the whole question.

EPS

VENUE OF MIDDLE EAST COUNCIL'S  
ASSEMBLY SWITCHED TO CYPRUS

Nicosia, Cyprus (EPS) - The next general assembly of the Middle East Council of Churches (MECC) will be held in Nicosia rather than in Lebanon as originally planned. Dates of the assembly are 20th to 26th September.

In addition, the offices of MECC have been temporarily moved here from Beirut as a result of the intensified fighting in the Lebanese capital. The departments on education and on dialogue and witness are still operating from the Cairo office.

A pastoral letter sent by MECC officers to their member churches in Lebanon at the end of May said: "Our Christian faith compels us to create a spirit of unity, understanding and cooperation towards the wellbeing of all people in Lebanon regardless of their religious and political affiliation". The churches were assured of the joint MECC/World Council of Churches participation in relief efforts and in long-term reconstruction programmes in Lebanon.

Another letter, addressed to the WCC general secretariat, expressed appreciation for the humanitarian aid that Christian churches have rendered to those suffering as a result of the fighting in Beirut.

In recent months the WCC's Commission on Inter-Church Aid, Refugee and World Service has provided relief to displaced persons and refugees from the Lebanese war as follows: 7,944 kilos of blankets and 1,775 kilos of medical supplies with a total value of \$33,496. MECC received \$53,000 in cash for emergency relief and reconstruction work. Within a few days an additional 2,271 kilos of medical supplies worth \$23,000 will be forwarded to MECC relief officers.

The letter to the WCC said: "We consider the unity of Lebanon as a unique occurrence of living together between people of different faiths and ideologies. This reality, which should be maintained and strengthened, as well as the implementation of the national rights of the Palestinians are at this juncture the key to peace in the Middle East".

EPS

KEY CHANGES IN ANGLICAN/CATHOLIC  
MIXED MARRIAGE RULES PROPOSED

London (EPS) - A joint Anglican-Roman Catholic Commission on the Theology of Marriage has recommended, after eight years of study, that mixed marriages be allowed to take place in a church of either denomination. Also that Catholics no longer be obliged to promise to bring up their children in their own faith.

Under the commission's proposals, Catholics wanting to marry Anglicans would still require an episcopal dispensation which would be possible only after the parish priest had given his bishop a written assurance that he had "duly put the Roman Catholic partner in mind of the obligations" about the upbringing of any children, and that the non-Catholic partner knew about them.

The report is now with the Pope and the Archbishop of Canterbury, who created the commission. If accepted, it would require fundamental changes in the law and practice of the Roman Catholic Church. Some see it as a way of giving substance to official utterances which have declared a "special relationship" to exist between the two churches.

EPS

UNITED, ROMAN CATHOLIC  
CHURCHES OPEN DIALOGUE

Rome (EPS) - A fresh initiative towards Church union was taken here recently by experts from the Roman Catholic Church and united churches. They accepted as the goal of the ecumenical movement "the one Church ... envisioned as a conciliar fellowship of local churches which are themselves truly united", as a dynamic expression of the organic union of the whole Church in both universal and local dimensions.

Present were representatives of the Vatican Secretariat for Promoting Christian Unity and the continuation committee named by the Toronto Conference of United Churches. At this meeting in June 1975, 26 united churches and negotiating committees in 25 countries expressed a desire to get into dialogue with Rome.

Since many union churches do not belong to any of the world confessional families already in bilateral conversations with the Roman Catholic Church, they have had no opportunity to talk with Rome. The Vatican, with its emphasis on doctrinal consensus and the expression of Christian unity and catholicity at the universal level, has not had direct contact with the united churches, which have responded to Christ's call to unity for the sake of mission and service at the local level, and in so doing have found a new sense of catholicity.

During the two day meeting several questions were posed for further exploration. How much doctrinal consensus do the united churches need for conciliar fellowship to exist? How much variety can the Roman Catholic Church allow? The same question was asked with regard to sacramental practices and local autonomy.

The Toronto Continuation Committee and the Secretariat for Christian Unity were asked to see whether further discussion of these topics might be carried out through the Faith and Order Secretariat of the World Council of Churches.

EPS

CICARWS CONSULTATION REVIEWS  
WORLD-WIDE AID PROGRAMMES

Geneva (EPS) The Commission on Inter-Church Aid, Refugee and World Service (CICARWS) brought together representatives of church-related aid agencies which are its partners and the inter-church aid secretaries of councils of churches to learn about plans and programmes in the post-Assembly period and to exchange information about their own operations and plans.

The consultation met in sub-groups by geographical areas to discuss ongoing activities in emergency relief and rehabilitation, relief services, material aid, personnel, diakonia, the Ecumenical Loan Fund and the CICARWS-CWME project system.

Participants declared their interest in some form of annual meeting. They also asked for CICARWS initiative in a greater exchange of development education and information materials of all types.

EPS

AACC ASKS EUROPE CHURCHES TO PROTEST  
NUCLEAR AID TO SOUTH AFRICA

Nairobi (EPS) - The All Africa Conference of Churches (AACC) has asked sister churches in Europe collectively and individually to influence governments to stop French and other European nations' nuclear collaboration with South Africa.

AACC Chairman John Gatu and General Secretary Burgess Carr sent a telegram to the Conference of European Churches (CEC) urging it to "mobilize European public opinion ... to act in solidarity against entrenching apartheid in South Africa, threatening peace in Africa and the whole world by enabling South Africa to obtain nuclear and even thermonuclear power status".

(CEC General Secretary Glen Garfield Williams immediately forwarded the AACC telegram to its 108 member churches with a request that they take whatever action they found was possible.)

Canon Carr has also written to Bishop Helmut Class, chairman of the Evangelical Church in Germany (EKD), noting that South Africa can already enrich uranium. At the same time he thanked the bishop for the EKD's recent vote to urge the West German Government to use its influence to dissuade German firms from nuclear dealings with South Africa.

EPS

CEC ADVISORY BODY PRESSES  
CHURCHES ON HELSINKI ACCORD

Moscow (EPS) - The presidium and advisory committee of the Conference of European Churches (CEC) meeting here recently expressed disappointment that more had not been done to implement the Helsinki Declaration on Security and Cooperation in Europe.

A resolution on the Helsinki accords urged European countries to implement fully everything expressed in the 10 principles of the act, although CEC recognised that this might take time and demand "important changes in the attitudes of our countries".

Member churches of CEC were asked to do everything they could towards the implementation of the principles. Acknowledging that some churches would put more stress on human rights, CEC said the 10 principles should be seen as a whole. A follow-up conference on the Helsinki Declaration and the churches is scheduled for next year in Belgrade.

On relationships with the Roman Catholic Church, it was reported that joint actions on theological problems and practical possibilities in Northern Ireland were developing. A CEC information seminar will be held in Belfast towards the end of next week.

The Advisory Committee received a message from Patriarch Pimen of the Russian Orthodox Church appealing for support for a world conference on "Religious Forces for Lasting Peace, Disarmament and Just Relations Between Nations" to be held in Moscow in 1977. Dr. Williams said CEC would favour such a conference provided all European churches were invited to participate.

The meeting accepted two Czech churches into membership: The Moravian Church (Unitas Fratrum) and the Brethren Church (Congregational). This brings CEC's membership to 108 in 26 countries.

EPS



POTTER ADDRESSES TRIENNIAL  
MEETING OF SWEDISH CHURCH

Falun , Sweden (EPS) - Is the hope of vast millions of despairing people shared by citizens in the prosperous welfare state of Sweden? asked Dr. Philip A. Potter, general secretary of the World Council of Churches in an address here before the triennial meeting of church leaders representing all dioceses of the Church of Sweden.

Dr. Potter, whose address was entitled "The Word of God -- our Hope", told the gathering of 2,600 which included the King of Sweden, that asking this question would be a beginning in speaking the language of the Word of God.

Referring to the Bible as the "book of hope from start to finish", the WCC leader said there can be no hope "for ourselves unless we are willing to take upon ourselves the sufferings of others, and to suffer ourselves. The God of Hope is the God of the sufferers, of those who pay the price of breaking down the idols which people and nations set up, who risk themselves to bring to bear on the life of the world the justice and the mercy which are signs of the living presence of God".

The Swedish welfare state itself, he reminded his listeners, was born of a spiritual revival in the latter part of the 19th century which awakened people's hopes.

"God is calling his people to a new revival of revolutionary faith which may awaken hope so that people can break through their cages and find new ways of hopeful living in Sweden and in the rest of the world", he said.

Dr. Potter paid high tribute to Swedish churches' participation in helping people overseas who are in need, in speaking out against injustices and violations of human rights and going to people's aid. He asked whether it was even necessary to speak about hope in Sweden and answered the question with a quote from the Bible, that God's creation should be used for the good of all and not become enslaving.

EPS

STUDENTS CANCEL DEUTSCHE BANK ACCOUNTS  
TO PROTEST INVESTMENTS IN S.A.

Stuttgart (EPS) - The German Student Christian Federation has cancelled its business connections with the Deutsche Bank in protest against the bank's continued investment in South Africa.

In a letter to the bank management, the student federation acknowledges the group is under no illusion that cancellation of its financial involvement will make much difference. However, the protest against the extensive investments in which the Deutsche Bank participates as a member of the European American Banking Corporation (EABC) is designed to call attention to the contribution the German bank is making towards the maintenance of unjust social structures, which will eventually lead to violence in southern Africa, the students say. They emphasize that Chief Gatsha Buthelezi and Dr. C.F. Beyers Naude of the Christian Institute in Southern Africa, have now abandoned their former advocacy of continued foreign investment.

The federation's action came in response to a call by the WCC Executive Committee which decided to terminate accounts with member banks of the EABC. Some 120 local member groups of the federation are asked to join the protest.

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## Ecumenical Press Service

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EMBARGO: Thursday, July 1, 11.00 hours

## JOINT WORKING GROUP RECONSTITUTED

Geneva/Rome, July 1 (EPS) - A new Joint Working Group between the World Council of Churches and the Roman Catholic Church was announced here today.

The Joint Working Group was formed in 1965 to facilitate collaboration between the two world bodies and to evaluate together the development of the ecumenical movement.

The fourth official report of the JWG was approved at the Fifth Assembly of the World Council of Churches in Nairobi last December; it also received the approval of the authorities of the Roman Catholic Church.

The report recommended the setting up of a restructured Joint Working Group of approximately 16 members to meet normally once year with a small Executive Group of six members to be responsible for the ongoing work between meetings. Its task is to discover and assess promising new possibilities for ecumenical development. In so doing it will facilitate the exchange of information about the progress of the ecumenical movement, especially at the local level.

The group will hold its 1976 meeting in the Netherlands in October.

The new Joint Working Group includes:

World Council of Churches

Protopresbyter Vitaly Borovoy, professor of Moscow Theological Academy and  
Dean of Moscow Cathedral (Russian Orthodox)

His Eminence Konstantinidis Chrysostomos, Metropolitan of Myra, Istanbul  
(Ecumenical Patriarchate of Constantinople)

Bishop Eduard Lohse, bishop of the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Hanover,  
Federal Republic of Germany

Dr José Miguez-Bonino, dean of post-graduate studies, Union Theological  
Seminary, Buenos Aires, Argentina

Bishop Henry Okullu, Anglican bishop, Church of the Province of Kenya, Kisumu,  
Kenya

Ms Claire Randall, general secretary, National Council of Churches USA, New York

Dr Lukas Vischer, chairman, WCC Programme Unit on Faith and Witness, Geneva

Mr C.I. Itty, chairman, WCC Programme Unit on Justice and Service, Geneva

Ms Brigalia Bam, moderator, WCC Programme Unit on Education and Renewal, Geneva

Roman Catholics

Bishop Ramon Torrella Cascante, Vice-President of the Secretariat for Promoting  
Christian Unity, Vatican City

Father Simon Amalorpavadass, Director of the National Biblical, Catechetical and  
Liturgical Centre, Bangalore, India

Father Henri de Riedmatten, O.P., Secretary, Pontifical Council "Cor Unum",  
Vatican City

Father Pierre Duprey, W.F., Under-Secretary of the Secretariat for Promoting  
Christian Unity, Vatican City

Monsignor Danilo Dzwonyk, Vicar General of the Apostolic Visitor for the  
Ukrainian Catholics of Western Europe, Brussels, Belgium

Father Emmanuel Lanne, O.S.B., Priory of Chevetogne, Belgium; Vice-President  
of the Faith and Order Commission of the World Council of Churches

Monsignor Basil Meeking of the Secretariat for Promoting Christian Unity,  
Vatican City

Father Thomas F. Stransky, C.S.P., President of the Paulist Fathers, New  
York, USA

Sister Frances Webster of the Medical Mission Sisters, Rome, Italy.

EPS

13 CONVICTED IN NESTLE CASE,  
FIRM WITHDRAWS 3 CHARGES

Bern, Switzerland (EPS) - Some 13 members of the Swiss Third World Action Group were found guilty of libel after publishing a report called "Nestlé kills babies". Each was fined 300 Swiss francs and was ordered to pay Sfr 400 toward the firm's legal costs. District Judge Juerg Sollberger ruled the title of the report was clearly defamatory.

The 13 defendants, mainly students, teachers and pastors from Bern, announced they would appeal their conviction to the Supreme Court.

Nestlé had originally lodged four complaints but dropped three of them when the court assembled for its third hearing of the two-year-old action. Two of the complaints related to allegations in the report that Nestlé and other companies indulged in unethical and immoral activity and that by its promotion policy had been responsible for the deaths of, or physical and mental damage to, thousands of children. A third withdrawn complaint referred to statements in the report that sales representatives for Nestlé baby foods dressed as nurses to make their methods look scientific.

Judge Sollberger said that from evidence heard during the case he believed "Nestlé must modify its publicity methods fundamentally if it does not want its products to become lethally dangerous". The judge cleared the firm of blame for the deaths of babies in the Third World, saying that misuse of the product was at fault.

The Third World Action report had alleged the company was responsible for the deaths of thousands of babies in poor countries because its sales methods persuaded mothers to abandon breast feeding for the bottle. Nestlé executives agreed at the trial that bottles were often made up overdiluted, sometimes with unsafe water and without proper sterilisation.

EPS

SOUTH AFRICAN AUTHORITIES  
URGED TO MEET BLACK DEMANDS

Geneva (EPS) - The South African Government has been urged to stop meeting legitimate African protests with "armed police repression" and to take immediate steps to satisfy African demands for full human rights. The plea was contained in a statement issued June 18 by Dr Alan A. Brash, acting general secretary of the World Council of Churches

The statement came two days after the start of rioting in black townships in the Transvaal Province which left at least 176 dead and 1,139 wounded. (A spokesman for the UN Committee on Apartheid in New York said more than 1,000 Blacks died in the violence.)

The WCC spokesman also requested the release of those imprisoned for political reasons as a first step towards assuring the rights of South African Blacks to full participation in political decision-making.

Dr Brash expressed solidarity with those who had protested the order imposing Afrikaans as the language of instruction for certain subjects in African schools. "It is, however, the whole Bantu system of education imposed on Africans in 1953 by the white South African Government which is at issue," he stated. "The inferior education this system imposes is designed to deny blacks any role in society other than that of worker and servant.

"It is illusory for South African authorities to treat the incidents now as an isolated phenomenon that can be controlled by force," said Dr Brash. "They must begin immediately to meet the Blacks' demands."

The day of the violent outbreak in Soweto (June 16) the South African Council of Churches and the Christian Institute of Southern Africa both issued statements urging immediate repeal of the offending regulations and supporting the students' protest. The SACC Executive Committee suggested that police and army be withdrawn from Soweto to allow "the authentic black leadership to take hold of the situation". The Christian Institute urged a national conference of black and white leaders be convened.

The Netherlands Reformed Church has written a letter to the Nederduitse Gereformeerde Kerk, the largest white church in South Africa, asking it to support the proposal for a series of conventions in which the voices of black people could be heard on the future of the country.

Meanwhile in the USA the Reformed Church in America passed two resolutions dealing with South Africa. One addressed to Prime Minister B.J. Vorster of South Africa backed the suspension of the use of Afrikaans as the language of instruction among Blacks and asked government negotiation with black leaders "on an equal basis". A message to US Secretary of State Kissinger asked him to press these measures at his meeting with Vorster in West Germany.

The church synod acted after hearing the Rev. Sam Buti, moderator of the 600,000-member Nederduitse Gereformeerde Kerk in Afrika, report that he had warned his government violence would erupt over language conflicts. But government officials "did not listen - they will not listen to black people, so we can expect more violence".

On June 20 the Federation of Evangelical Churches in the German Democratic Republic condemned the "bloody race terror" in Soweto which it said threatened the peace and humanity of the African continent. It sent a letter of "brotherly solidarity" to the presiding bishop of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Southern Africa.

In Johannesburg many South Africans attended the 24-hour vigil at St Mary's Anglican Cathedral to pray for the government and all the people of the country. They were responding to a call for a day of fasting and prayer issued by the Very Rev. Desmond Tutu, Anglican dean of Johannesburg.

Earlier Dean Tutu had written to Prime Minister Vorster urging "some meaningful sign" that the government meant business when it said it wanted peaceful change. He suggested: accept urban Blacks as permanent inhabitants and grant freehold property rights; repeal the pass laws; and call a national convention made up of the genuine leaders of all sections of the community to work out an orderly evolution to a nonracial, open and just society.

The Prime Minister termed the dean's open letter propaganda and refused to reply in public.

Others protesting the Soweto massacres included the Council of Churches in the Netherlands, the British Council of Churches, the Africa Committee of the National Council of Churches (USA) and the Anglican Bishop of Johannesburg, Dr Timothy Bavin. Speaking at Westminster Abbey in London the bishop rejected as "absolute nonsense" claims that agitators caused the Soweto riots. The riots were the expression of "frustration, despair and violence from living in that kind of ghetto". He saw them as the "inevitable and foreseeable outcome of a policy which would not and should not work". EPS

#### APPEAL LAUNCHED TO RESETTLE L.A. REFUGEES NOW IN ARGENTINA

Geneva (EPS) - The Commission on Inter-Church Aid, Refugee and World Service (CICARWS) has launched an urgent appeal for the resettlement of a minimum of 1,000 refugees now in Argentina who wish to leave that country. The appeal has gone to church-related refugee service agencies in many countries.

According to statistics supplied by the UN High Commissioner for Refugees, refugees in Argentina number 18,000 consisting of 14,000 Chileans and 4,000 Uruguayans, Brazilians and Bolivians. The CICARWS Refugee Office assists them through the Comité Ecuménico de Acción Social (CAREF). After October 1973 this assistance consisted of efforts to obtain resettlement opportunities elsewhere, but later shifted to providing training, employment and housing.

In the wake of increasing numbers of abductions and murders in the latter part of May and June, emphasis of the refugee aid operation has shifted back to resettlement efforts. Particularly urgent is resettlement of at least 1,000 cases in which a deterioration of the refugees' safety is involved.

In this connection it is noted that on June 9, the dossiers of 2,000 refugees were stolen from the Catholic refugee service office in Buenos Aires, and two days later 24 refugees were abducted from their hotels by 40 armed men and subjected to severe torture before being released.

CICARWS asks member churches to appeal to their governments to consider receiving as large a number of these endangered refugees as possible.

EPS

CCA DELEGATION TO KOREA  
HAILS CHRISTIAN WITNESS

Seoul, Korea (EPS) - A five-person delegation of Asian Christians headed by the prominent Indonesian civil rights lawyer Yap Thiam Hien recently paid a visit to Korean churches. While here they attended the fifth session of the trial of 18 church and political dissidents arrested after the March 1 prayer meeting which called for the restoration of democracy and the resignation of President Park.

The church delegation came to Korea on behalf of the Christian Conference of Asia (CCA) to express its concern for human rights. In the group were Mr Ninan Koshy of South India, executive secretary of the Commission of the Churches on International Affairs; Dr David Sobrepna, University of the Philippines; the Rev. K.C. Abraham, presbyter of St Mark's Cathedral, Bangalore, India; and Mrs. Alison O'Grady of New Zealand.

For the first time the wives of the prisoners decided to attend the court session. Previously they had stood outside protesting the unfairness of the trial. Admission is by ticket only and many security agents are in evidence.

On this occasion the wives filed into the court shortly before adjournment and stood silently along one wall. Upon adjournment they removed their coats to reveal a large purple cross stitched on their dresses. As the prisoners filed out the wives broke into the Korean version of "We shall overcome" and were joined by others in the room.

Those in trial include Kim Dae Jung, leader of the political opposition, former South Korean President Yun Po Sun, five Roman Catholic priests, university professors and Protestant ministers.

The CCA delegation was "profoundly moved" by the experience and felt the witness of the Korean Church held lessons for churches in other parts of Asia. The delegation also had a chance during their four-day visit to speak with many church leaders and others involved in human rights issues.

In another development the Rev. Park Hyung-Kyu, pastor of Seoul's First Presbyterian Church, and his associate, the Rev. Kwon Ho-Kyung, were rearrested on June 5 after less than six months of freedom. They had been working to free four members of the Seoul Metropolitan Christian Organization arrested at the end of May.

EPS

WALDENSIAN PASTOR WINS SENATE SEAT

Rome (EPS) - In the recent Italian elections the Rev. Tullio Vinay, director of the Centre for Christian Service in Riesi, Sicily, has been elected a Senator for the district of Chivasso Casale in northwestern Italy. He ran as an independent on the Communist Party ticket. Others elected under similar circumstances included Raniero Valle, former editor of the Christian Democratic journal, and Mario Gozzini, professor and journalist.

Prior to the election the board of the Riesi Service Centre issued a statement noting that Pastor Vinay had consulted leading members of his church and obtained their permission to make the race. The Riesi board urged him to run, recalling that in the last two legislatures "Independents" had demonstrated their freedom to vote as they pleased.

Mr Vinay, a Waldensian minister, was the moving spirit behind Agape, an ecumenical youth village west of Turin built by workcampers from many countries soon after World War II. In the early '60s he went to work among poor people in southern Italy.

EPS

EVANGELISM CONFERENCE FORGES TIES  
BETWEEN PAPUA NEW GUINEA CHURCHES

Port Moresby, Papua New Guinea (EPS) - The world's newest independent country was the scene last month of an inter-confessional evangelism conference which brought together 170 delegates from Roman Catholic, Lutheran, United, Anglican, Baptist and Evangelical Alliance Churches plus the Salvation Army.

A key aim of the nine-day conference, called by the Melanesian Council of Churches and the Evangelical Alliance, was to build greater understanding among Papua New Guinea churches on how to work together to proclaim the good news of Christ and "build believers into the fellowship of His Church".

Agreement was reached on three points. First, churches should share their different gifts and personnel. Secondly, Papua New Guinea should begin to send missionaries to other countries, especially those of Southeast Asia. And thirdly, evangelism and social concern go together.

There was a unanimous call for an end to the proselytizing that has opened up so many wounds since the Highlands of New Guinea began to be opened up 20 years ago. And delegates from two competing churches in one Highlands village which had competed violently for the allegiance of the villagers, travelled home together after the seminar was over.

The Rev. David Daumunu, Evangelical Alliance president for the South Pacific Islands, illustrated the third point of agreement by saying: "As we begin to understand evangelism during this seminar, we see it has something to do with man as a whole and that includes development. We do not have concern for his soul alone, because man is made up of soul, body and spirit. The churches, taking their message to corners of the country where the government does not reach, can be a great help to the development of the country."

Father Patrick Murphy, ecumenical secretary of the Catholic Bishops' Conference, commented, "Some leading Melanesian Christians have told me that to separate human development from purely spiritual concerns is both unevangelical and not Melanesian." He went on to point up links between evangelization and human development and liberation.

One of the guest speakers, the Rev. Gottfried Osei-Mensah, pastor of a Baptist Church in Nairobi, and chief executive officer of the Lausanne Continuation Committee, wanted a clear distinction made between Christian service and evangelism.

"Social action and evangelism are distinctive commands from our God and they are both our responsibility," he said. "Evangelism has a redemption base. It is distinctively Christian and we cannot involve the non-Christian in it."

Father Murphy answered: "God's plan of redemption touches the concrete situations of injustice to be opposed and of justice to be restored." Yet he made it clear that "the Church reaffirms the primacy of her spiritual vocation and refuses to replace the proclamation of the Kingdom by the proclamation of forms of human liberation."

Mr Osei-Mensah called on Christians to lead the fight against the corruption of many of their countries' leaders, and to serve in a disinterested way, not as a means to an end. He attacked those who believe evangelism and social concern are polarized.



IMPROVED WCC COMMUNICATION  
IS CORE GROUP'S OBJECTIVE

Geneva (EPS) - The broad outline of a communications policy for the World Council of Churches was drawn by communications experts who came together here for four days in mid-June.

Serving as the core group for a still-to-be-named Committee on Communication were a TV producer, a secular publisher, a Christian writer/editor and church communicators from the USA, Kenya and the USSR.

They encouraged the WCC's Communication Department to see the work of the Council as a comprehensive whole, putting faith issues alongside social action and stressing the Christian motivation behind various social programmes.

Greater efforts should be made to reach the local congregations, said the experts, and to relate the council's 286 member churches to each other. Yet because secular channels of communication continue to be major factors in informing the general public, the core group advised "strengthening relationships with the secular media".

Through Ecumenical Press Service, INTERVOX (the ecumenical taped information service) and press releases the Communication Department is already collecting and disseminating news about the WCC and the churches. The experts suggested improving these services through paying honoraria to a network of correspondents.

The monthly magazine ONE WORLD is the department's major means of reaching local churches. But it needs additional staff and funds for promotion, the experts decided.

They endorsed the idea of an Ecumenical Sunday to be used primarily as a tool for educating and informing Christians about the ecumenical movement. The Central Committee in August will be asked to offer the plan to the churches. Responsibility for setting the date of the observance and working out themes would lie with the member churches; however, the WCC would offer both print and visual materials.

More coordinated editing, publishing and distribution of all WCC publications and periodicals was suggested. The programme should be less costly but continue to serve the whole of the WCC.

Finally the group urged adoption of "the multilingual principle" for the WCC's Language Service. The Central Committee was asked to determine the working languages for which translation and interpretation services would be provided at meetings of Central, Executive and other officially instituted committees.

EPS

DISCUSSION OF LEUENBERG ACCORD  
IN REGIONAL GROUPS PROPOSED

Sigtuna, Sweden (EPS) - More than 70 delegates from churches which have signed the Leuenberg Agreement on pulpit and altar fellowship met here 10 to 16 June at the invitation of the Church of Sweden. Their meeting, which drew delegates from both Eastern and Western Europe, was to implement the doctrinal agreement contained in Article 37.

Also present were delegates from Reformation churches that have not yet signed the agreement as well as observers from Anglican and Methodist churches and the Ecumenical Patriarchate of Constantinople, Russian Orthodox, Roman Catholic and the World Baptist Federation.

The assembly focused on two themes which take priority for the majority of the signatory churches. These are the recommendation to engage in talks on the Lutheran doctrine of the two kingdoms and the Calvinist doctrine of the lordship of Christ. Secondly the clarification of how each side sees ministry, ministries and ordination.

The first was introduced by Bishop Johannes Hempel of Dresden and the second by Prof. André Dumas of Paris in a speech titled "witness and service of the Church in contemporary Europe".

There are now 68 churches out of a possible 89 that have signed the agreement. They are Lutheran, Reformed and United churches in both Eastern and Western Europe.

The Sigtuna gathering recommended that to increase the fellowship of the churches in a concrete way, conversations should be held in regional groupings. These would not be merely along geographical lines but would include both majority and minority churches, those of different confessional backgrounds as well as churches in different social contexts. Churches were asked to cooperate in forming such groupings so that conversations can take place in 1977-78 with another large meeting in 1979 to evaluate results.

A continuation committee of nine members is being chaired by Dr Daniel von Allmen (Switzerland) and Dr Wenzel Lohff (Federal Republic of Germany).

EPS

#### DUTCH POLITICAL PARTIES FOLLOW WCC'S EXAMPLE

Amsterdam (EPS) - The Dutch Labour Party and two smaller parties in the coalition government have taken a joint decision to boycott the Amro Bank in the Netherlands because it continues to grant loans to the South African Government.

Amro Bank responded with a full-page advertisement in all major Dutch newspapers reprinting in full a letter to the World Council of Churches dated 29 April 1975 in which it stated its reasons for continuing such loans.

In addition the bank's ad criticizes the WCC for singling out Amro when other banks are involved in similar loans to South Africa.

Asked by the Dutch press to comment, Mr Baldwin Sjollema, director of the WCC's Programme to Combat Racism, stated: "We rejoice in the initiative of the progressive parties and hope that the churches will follow suit."

"The WCC has given a clear answer to Amro. On 4 February 1976 the bank was notified that since the World Council did not wish to give financial support to the apartheid system of South Africa, it was closing its account."

"After the recent bloodbath in Soweto," Mr Sjollema continued, "we are even more convinced of the necessity for our decision as a form of solidarity with the oppressed people there."

Mr Sjollema explained that the World Council's Executive Committee meeting in Nairobi 20 to 22 November 1975 had decided that none of its funds should be deposited with the European American Banking Corporation (EABC) or any of its six member banks because of its loans to the South African Government. The banks were so notified on 4 February. A more detailed memorandum will be sent to them shortly.

EPS

FOUR PORTUGUESE PASTORS INJURED;  
HOSTILITY OF LOCAL PRIEST CITED

Lisbon (EPS) - Ecumenical relations suffered a setback in northeastern Portugal recently when four Presbyterian pastors were beaten up by a mob said to have been incited by the Roman Catholic priest in the village of Morais, Tras-os-Montes.

Injured were the Rev. Dr Armando Marques and the Rev. José Leite, both of Figueira da Foz; the Rev. Francisco da Cruz of Ligares; and the Rev. A. Rui Rodriguez of Rossio ao Sul do Tejo.

They had gone to Morais on June 14 to explain a social development project for the Morais District soon to be started on a large estate donated by Dr Valeriano Lopes, a wealthy landowner.

The projected development programme is to include a clinic, a creche, a kindergarten, an agricultural school and experiment station. All are to serve poor people no matter what their religious beliefs.

When the pastors reached Morais where a public meeting had been scheduled to explain the plans, they found hundreds of people jammed into the town square. As they were leaving their cars the pastors were pelted with rocks. One shattered car window smashed into a pastor's face. When one car managed to leave the scene with the landowner, an elderly man, it was pursued and overtaken by a truckload of Morais thugs armed with clubs. Both the driver and the old man were badly beaten and left by the road, where they were later found by a gipsy woman.

Reporting to the Synod of the Evangelical Presbyterian Church of Portugal in Lisbon on June 17, the pastors (all swathed in bandages) said they had been told "that the local Roman Catholic priest had for two Sundays warned against the coming of "Communists and Cubans from Angola". As the pastors' cars approached town, the emergency bell was rung to summon the people.

The Presbyterian Synod appointed a commission to call on the Roman Catholic Primate of Portugal and on the Bishop of Bragança, in whose diocese Morais is set, to inform them of the incident.

EPS

HYMN COMPETITION ANNOUNCED

Geneva (EPS) - A hymn contest is being sponsored by the Lutheran World Federation as part of the preparations for its Sixth Assembly to be held next year in Tanzania. Non-Lutherans are eligible to participate and deadline for entries is 31 December 1976. An international jury will select the best contributions, paying particular attention to hymns reflecting local cultures.

Hymns on the assembly theme "In Christ - a New Community" should be addressed to Christophe Wagner, Lutheran World Federation, 150 route de Ferney, 1211 Geneva 20, Switzerland.

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Ecumenical  
Press Service

ADDRESSES: "OIKOUMENE" GENEVA - TEL. 33 34 00 TELEX 23 423 OIK CH - 150 ROUTE DE FERNEY, 1211 GENEVA 20 SWITZERLAND

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AFRICA REGION OF WSCF HOLDS  
WORKSHOP ON LIBERATION

Dodoma, Tanzania (EPS) - Student Christian Movements in Africa have pledged to educate their members on the liberation struggle presently taking place on their continent and the role of liberation movements in it.

This was one practical result of the Workshop on Liberation held here in mid-June under the sponsorship of the World Student Christian Federation's Africa Region and with the support of the Programme to Combat Racism of the World Council of Churches.

"The struggle in southern Africa and its connection with the struggle in independent Africa" was discussed by 35 students mainly from East Africa, representatives of several liberation movements and of Student Christian Movements in Europe and the Middle East.

This was the first inter-regional meeting to be held since the WSCF adopted a policy of regionalization. The European presence was deemed necessary because of the historical relationship between Europe and Africa.

In addition to undertaking educational programmes on liberation, the participants agreed to keep in touch with the South-West Africa People's Organization (SWAPO) and movements active in Zimbabwe (Rhodesia). The regional office was asked to arrange more inter-regional contacts.

Topics discussed during the workshop included: African revolution (ideological framework, practical consequences, the missionary enterprise and the struggle for liberation, class and racism in a theological context and Christian witness in the class struggle.

EPS

DIACONAL WORKERS PLEAD  
FOR MORE ECUMENISM

Lyon, France (EPS) - An important event in the life of the churches took place here from June 28 to July 5. For the first time representatives of the World Federation of Deaconess Associations, the European Deacon Association (Protestant) and the International Centre for the Diaconate (Roman Catholic) came together at the Dominican Centre of La Tourette.

Their meeting climaxed five years of preparatory work initiated by the World Council of Churches (WCC). In addition to WCC staff members, Orthodox Church people were also present.

About 60 participants from different parts of the world - deacons, deaconesses, nuns, priests and theologians - discussed the theme "In Search of a Relevant Community". Living in community, they sought to experience ecumenism and to find new ways for missionary diaconal service in the churches. Working together in Christian fellowship, they discovered that confessional differences became much less important.

Therefore they asked the churches to find new opportunities for bringing people together. They asked Christians all over the world to include diaconal actions in their prayers, their worship and their own lives.

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KEY TO ABBREVIATIONS

AACC -- All Africa Conference of Churches  
 CCIA -- Commission of the Churches on International Affairs  
 CCPD -- Commission on the Churches' Participation in Development  
 CEC -- Conference of European Churches  
 CICARWS -- Commission on Inter-Church Aid, Refugee and World Service  
 CMC -- Christian Medical Commission  
 CWME -- Commission on World Mission and Evangelism  
 EEC -- European Economic Community  
 GDR -- German Democratic Republic  
 ICYE -- International Christian Youth Exchange  
 LWF -- Lutheran World Federation  
 SODEPAX -- Committee on Society, Development and Peace  
 WARC -- World Alliance of Reformed Churches  
 WCC -- World Council of Churches  
 WSCF -- World Student Christian Federation  
 YMCA -- Young Men's Christian Association  
 YWCA -- Young Women's Christian Association

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# EPS

## Ecumenical Press Service

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CICARWS INCREASES LEBANON APPEAL  
TO \$500,000 AS FIGHTING INTENSIFIES

Geneva (EPS) - Heavy fighting in northern Lebanon has left large numbers of people dead and driven some 35,000 displaced persons into Tripoli, according to Archbishop Elias Kurban of the Greek Orthodox Church of Tripoli.

As a result of his urgent plea for aid, the Commission on Inter-Church Aid, Refugee and World Service (CICARWS) of the World Council of Churches has cabled \$10,000 to Archbishop Kurban. At the same time it notified church-related aid agencies that earlier appeals for a total of \$135,000 had just been expanded to a target of \$500,000.

Archbishop Kurban sailed to Cyprus on a cargo boat recently to report the desperate situation to the Middle East Council of Churches' Emergency Relief Office. He noted that at least 22 villages in the region of Akkar and Kura have been wiped out. Orthodox Christians have either moved in with friends or relatives in Tripoli or occupy the empty houses of people who left at an earlier stage in the fighting. Due to a lack of security, the agricultural lands cannot be reached.

In Tripoli itself food, water, gasoline and electricity are rationed. Basic foodstuffs such as flour, sugar and rice are needed, and powdered milk for children is especially necessary. The shops open and close according to the intensity of the battle. Most people are unemployed and their savings are almost exhausted.

The ecumenical relief committee started by the Orthodox Bishopric of Tripoli last year has been distributing aid to families in need, both Moslem and Christian (Maronite or Orthodox). It has raised money locally and centralized the distribution of foodstuff, blankets and medicines received through relief organisations.

The archbishop made a strong plea for church aid to stop people from leaving the country as many have already done, seeking temporary shelter in France, Germany, Cyprus and Greece.

The World Council of Churches in cooperation with the UN High Commissioner for Refugees and the Intergovernmental Committee for European Migration (ICEM) has moved 2,700 non-Lebanese refugees (primarily Armenians and Assyrians) out of Beirut to Athens. More than 2,200 of these were then resettled in the USA. But resettlement opportunities are still being sought for the remainder.

Recognizing the major load being borne by the International Committee for the Red Cross in getting supplies to the war victims, CICARWS has contributed \$25,000 to its Geneva account.

In the first five months of this year \$100,000 was sent from CICARWS Emergency Appeal Fund to the Middle East Council of Churches' Relief Committee in addition to quantities of food and medicine.

EPS

#### GUSTAV HEINEMANN MOURNED

Geneva (EPS) - Dr. Philip A. Potter, general secretary of the World Council of Churches, sent a message of deepest sympathy to the widow of former West German President Gustav Heinemann, who died July 8 at the age of 76.

Dr. Potter termed him "a great Christian leader who was loved and respected by many around the world".

While on a state visit to Switzerland in September 1972, Dr. Heinemann paid a visit to the Ecumenical Centre here and addressed the assembled staffs of the WCC, the Lutheran World Federation and the World Alliance of Reformed Churches. He said he came "as a fellow Christian and a layman who had spent 40 years in the work of the church and in ecumenical concerns". He was at the first three WCC assemblies and served 13 years on its Commission of the Churches on International Affairs.

In his address Dr. Heinemann expressed support for the Special Fund to Combat Racism and paid tribute to international church organizations in Geneva for their efforts "to improve the material and social standards of people in the developing countries".

Dr. W.A. Visser 't Hooft, honorary WCC president, welcomed his longtime personal friend to the Ecumenical Centre and lauded him for putting into practice "in your work for reconciliation and peace what you have learned in the Church and in the ecumenical movement".

Gustav Heinemann served as president of the Synod of the Evangelical Church in Germany from 1949 to 1955. In the 1930's he was a founder of the Confessing Church which openly opposed the Nazi regime and was a member of the 1934 Church Synod at which the Barmen Declaration was drawn up. After the war he signed the EKD's "Stuttgart Declaration" laying the foundation for reconciliation between the German churches.

EPS

#### ETHIOPIAN CHURCH ELECTS NEW LEADER

Addis Ababa, Ethiopia (EPS) - The new patriarch of the Ethiopian Orthodox Church is a 58-year-old evangelistic monk, Aba Melaku Woldie-Michael, from the Sidamo Province in southern Ethiopia. In secret balloting at Trinity Cathedral on July 7 he received 317 votes out of 809 votes cast by delegates representing church leaders and laymen. His nearest competitor received 286 votes. There were five names on the ballot.

The new patriarch replaced Abuna Theophilos, who was removed from office and arrested on February 18. The military junta accused him of corruption and complicity with the late Emperor Haile Selassie. An interim bishop was appointed to lead the church until the election.

Aba Melaku received his priestly education at Gojjam and in 1934 was sent to Wolayita District to serve as evangelist for a local monastery. He is said to have baptised more than 300,000 people and to have raised funds for the construction of 65 churches and 24 schools in the region.

The Ethiopian Church is reported to have about 12 million members, 18,000 churches, 19 monasteries and 200,000 clergy.

EPS

UIM WORKERS IN SEOUL  
ALLEGE POLICE VIOLENCE

Seoul (EPS) - Charges of police brutality were made by 12 members of the Seoul Metropolitan Community Organisation (SMCO) after the last three of their number had been released from jail on July 6.

A spokesperson for the group said they had been punched and beaten when they refused to confess that their organisation was Communist-influenced.

No explanation was given for their arrest or the unexpected release of nine clergy and lay members of the urban industrial mission dedicated to bringing medical aid and a sense of self-worth to Seoul's slum dwellers.

Last to be freed were the Rev. Park Hyung Ku, pastor of First Presbyterian Church and SMCO'S chairman; the Rev. Kwon Ho Kung, his assistant; and another SMCO aide.

Top leaders of the city's major Protestant churches strongly protested the arrests. The Church and Society Committee of Korea's National Council of Churches rejected the government's implied charge of a Communist conspiracy and said the government misunderstood the Church's true mission. A resolution termed the arrests "an attack against the Church as a whole".

EPS

LANGUAGE RULING RELAXED  
BY SOUTH AFRICAN OFFICIALS

Pretoria (EPS) - The South African Government has agreed to drop the compulsory use of the Dutch-based Afrikaans language in schools for black children.

Under a new ruling by the Minister of Bantu Education, black schools can use English as a teaching medium with Afrikaans as a subject, use Afrikaans as the teaching medium with English as a subject or use both languages on a 50-50 basis.

The Rev. Manas Buthelezi, chairman of the Black Parents' Association, said: "We're happy to hear about it but at the same time it is a bit belated".

African students had demonstrated peacefully for five weeks in the black township of Soweto outside Johannesburg protesting a ruling that half the subjects in the curriculum must be taught in Afrikaans, which many consider the language of the oppressors. A police bullet on June 16 ignited five days of rioting in several black townships during which at least 176 died and 1,140 were injured.

Some 1,300 persons were detained during the rioting. While some of the adults have been released on bail or discharged, police have refused to let the juveniles go, fearing they would fail to appear in court.

The Black Parents' Association headed by Dr. Buthelezi is raising money for relief and legal aid to victims of the rioting.

EPS

PACIFIC WORKSHOP ON COOPERATIVES  
PUTS FOCUS ON HUMAN DEVELOPMENT

Tuviana, Bougainville (EPS) - Colonialism, capitalism and centralization have failed to meet the human needs of the people of Melanesia. Now it is up to the cooperative movement to emphasize local involvement, human development and small projects in which the people can have a voice in making decisions.

"We need the cooperative system in our nation and our people need this grassroots kind of organization and development", Mr. Shem Rarua, executive of the New Hebrides National Party, told the Workshop on Cooperative Movements in the Pacific at the Service of Human Development. He was addressing 24 people gathered here last month by the Pacific Conference of Churches.

"But", continued Mr. Shem Rarua, "we want to think in the thousands of dollars, not in millions". He also stressed the need for decentralization in order to get away from the high costs of warehousing, chartering, paying private enterprises.

There was general agreement among workshop participants that economic development had taken priority over human issues for many in the cooperative movement. Therefore the Cooperative Federation in the New Hebrides needed to be "reformed" to keep it growing in the way people need.

Another National Party member, William Edgell, bitterly denounced the decisions taken by foreign advisers who got the Cooperative Federation overinvolved with foreign shipping companies and thereby it contracted a debt which is "breaking our back". Setting up a bank was another failure and another decision "taken from the top in Vila", he noted.

"Our cooperative education has been good", he said, "we have learned from the stupid, capitalistic decisions of Europeans. The government has admitted its mistakes in not developing from the rural base".

The Melanesian emphasis on village-level decision-making came up again and again. And better planning for the future depended on more attention to the expectations of people at the local level, it was said.

A representative of the United Cooperative Society in Honiara (Solomon Islands) told how he had started in business with his father only to realize that the society needed "community cooperation". He therefore left his father to work for a united cooperative with all people who want to be involved. The produce manager of the Central Cooperative Association in the Solomon Islands reported his group had gotten control of island produce and now sold it with a 10% markup on clothes and 5% on foodstuffs. Dividends depend on the individual volume of purchase, and the association has a monthly cash flow of \$180,000-200,000.

A different kind of movement is composed of young people doing rural development through agricultural education. Started in 1972 by the Lutheran Church with a grant from West Germany, the "Yangpela Didiman" in the Western Highlands of Papua New Guinea was described as "education in the soil and on the ground. We spend time with families and small groups teaching better ways of gardening, raising fowl, keeping pigs. We experiment with all kinds of crops to see which our country can naturally develop, e.g. we are working with frost-resistant seeds. We also attack nutrition and diet problems".

(more)



The workshop was arranged by the Church and Society Programme of the Pacific Conference of Churches, which is chaired by Mrs. Kila Amini of Port Moresby, national YWCA executive, with Father Patrick Murphy, S.V.D. as full-time coordinator. Chairman of the workshop was the Rev. Akuila Yabaki, director of Christian Citizenship and Social Services for the Methodist Church in Fiji. The World Council of Churches was represented by the Rev. Rex Davis, Pacific Area Secretary. The workshop grew out of a Pacific-wide conference held in 1973 on the role of the churches in development.

EPS

#### FRENCH NUCLEAR SALES DRAW PROTEST FROM CHURCH GROUPS

Paris (EPS) - French and Dutch Protestants and Roman Catholics issued a joint statement here recently expressing regret that France had decided to sell two nuclear reactors to South Africa.

Declaring that apartheid is contrary to the teaching of the Gospel, the statement said any aid which substantially increases South Africa's scientific and technological potential, thus reinforcing the dominant position of the white minority, must be challenged. The statement regretted that France had been governed by considerations of economic profit rather than taking account of the people immediately concerned in South Africa.

The French and Dutch church representatives also pointed out that governments will soon be called on to recognize the Transkei as an independent state.

"This state is in fact being created to buttress the apartheid regime in South Africa", the communiqué stated. "For this reason it should be refused international recognition"

Attending the joint meeting here were representatives of the Roman Catholic Commissions on Justice and Peace of France and the Netherlands, the Council of Churches in the Netherlands, the French Protestant Federation and the Protestant relief organisation CIMADE plus the French Catholic Committee to combat hunger and promote development.

EPS

#### AID TO JAVA QUAKE VICTIMS

Geneva (EPS) - The World Council of Churches had advanced \$10,000 to the Indonesian Council of Churches to help with the evacuation and resettlement of some 15,000 people left homeless by a series of Java earthquakes which began on June 28.

Approximately 5,000 persons were killed when 17 mountainside settlements were swept away by earthquakes and huge landslides. Many survivors are suffering from pneumonia after living in the open for two weeks in drizzling rain at near-freezing temperatures.

The WCC's Commission on Inter-Church Aid, Refugee and World Service has asked the Indonesian Council for information about how the churches plan to be involved in the resettlement operation. Then it will determine whether additional funds can be used. The complete isolation of the affected villages some 2,500 miles east of Jakarta in the snow-capped Joyawijau Mountains makes it almost impossible to get supplies to the victims.

EPS

#### NEW ZEALANDERS PREFER USA FOR STUDY

Christchurch, New Zealand (EPS) - Scholarships provided by the World Council of Churches have had a major influence on the churches of New Zealand, according to the Rev. Angus H. MacLeod, general secretary of the National Council of Churches here. Reporting on a survey of the 28 people who have received WCC scholarships since the programme began in 1954, Dr. MacLeod said:

"They are all ecumenically oriented and giving valuable leadership in the ecumenical movement of New Zealand". The scholarship holders stated unanimously that their overseas study was a vital, formative experience in their lives.

"New Zealand being so far away from the rest of the world needs people with a wider perspective than is possible from within the country", the general secretary explained. "The WCC scholarship programme has provided this".

Of the 28 scholarship recipients only two were women and all but one were ordained. Twelve elected to study in the USA, six each in Switzerland and Germany, two in UK, one each in Japan and France.

Among suggestions of how to improve the programme were the following: raise the age limit (people with parish experience seem to gain more from the study) and more liaison between the NCC and those doing study. The question of whether wives and families should accompany the scholarship holder proved a complex one. Several whose wives shared the programme were in favour but others were not sure.

One who felt strongly wrote on his questionnaire: "Stipulations about leaving families/wives behind are 'unethical and unchristian'".

The WCC Scholarship Committee in Geneva has asked national correspondents around the world to submit similar reports on their "students".

EPS

#### PRAYERS FOR PRISONERS ASKED

Indianapolis, Indiana (EPS) - The General Board of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in the USA has asked its local congregations to pray for all political prisoners throughout the world. Mentioned especially were four members of the church's Friendship Mission in Asuncion, Paraguay: Ramon Gimenez, Christobal Ortiz, Waldina Soto and José Ojeda.

Three other mission personnel were released from detention on June 23. They are Marcelino Zarza, Carlos Flores and Dionisio Borda.

Soon after the arrest of the Friendship Mission workers on April 10 the National Council of Churches (USA) sent a telegram to President Stroessner of Paraguay asking him to intervene to guarantee the religious workers' rights and proceed as soon as possible for their release.

A spokesperson for the mission said: "Apparently the government's objective is to suppress any person or organization that strives to help those who live in miserable poverty to find a peaceful means to improve their situation.....".

Paraguay's Roman Catholic bishops have strongly condemned the "climate of violence reigning in Paraguay" and the persecution of the Church. Eight Jesuit priests have been expelled from the country.

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## Ecumenical Press Service

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WCC TEAM ASSESSES BEST WAY  
TO AID ANGOLAN PEOPLE

Geneva (EPS) - The World Council of Churches has assured both the church leaders and officials of the People's Republic of Angola of its concern for the Angolan people and its desire to support efforts at national reconstruction. To learn what this might mean in practical terms a three-person team from the Council visited the country for 16 days in June-July to see at firsthand the dimensions of the new situation and the plans for the socio-economic transformation of the country.

The team included Mr. Jean Fischer, deputy director of the Commission on Inter-Church Aid, Refugee and World Service (CICARWS); Mr. Joseph Buelly, general secretary of the Sudan Council of Churches; and the Rev. Lawrence Henderson of the United Church Board for World Ministries (USA).

In addition to conferences with government officials, the team visited the leaders of the major Protestant and African Independent churches to deepen relations with these bodies and see what role they might play in the country's reconstruction.

All agreed that there are at least one million victims of the recent wars -- those to achieve liberation from the Portuguese colonialists and from "agents of imperialism", as government officials expressed it. Many displaced persons want to go back to their villages and will need tools and seeds if they are to replant their fields during the September-October planting season. Otherwise there will be no food next year. Since it is now winter and the nights are cold, they also require blankets and clothing.

However, only 3,000 trucks remained after the Portuguese departed, so the delivery of relief supplies is exceedingly difficult.

Also the Minister of Defense told the WCC team, "The fight is not over. The situation is not calm at the borders. The South Africans continue to organize provocation in the south. For a long time we will have to face resistance from reactionary forces".

The churches expressed their willingness to have the World Council "aid our people" but were uncertain how much they could help. They are in process of finding their rightful place in the newly socialized nation. While church leaders are willing to work together, according to the WCC team, the churches are widely separated and communication is not easy due to a lack of petrol.

The Methodist Church is strong in Luanda, the Baptists are in the north. The Church of Central Angola is a united church stemming from missionary efforts of the United Church of Christ (USA) and the United Church of Canada. The one million member African independent church of Kimbanguists has groups in the northeast. Within a single church are found supporters of several different political factions.

Summing up their impressions, the team said the government is active in meeting the needs of the war victims and would welcome contributions from churches outside the country coming through the World Council of Churches.

(more)

CICARWS is working on fulfilling specific requests from the Secretary of State for Social Affairs and at the same time has transferred money to the churches in Angola to buy seeds and food and to pay transportation costs.

Following a \$100,000 Angola appeal in October 1975, CICARWS was able to provide blankets, milk powder, medicines and insecticides, which were delivered by the International Committee for the Red Cross. The aid went to civilians in all three regions of Angola. After the country achieved independence in November, the WCC indicated to the new government its desire to support efforts at national reconstruction. The team's visit was the first attempt to facilitate this process.

EPS

#### CICARWS INCREASES APPEAL FOR RETURNING PORTUGUESE

Geneva (EPS) - The Commission on Inter-Church Aid, Refugee and World Service (CICARWS) has increased to \$500,000 its appeal for assistance to Portuguese returning from former colonial territories, it was announced here. The original appeal, issued last November, was for \$170,000 and had been based on the needs of people returning from Angola.

The increase became necessary, according to CICARWS Director Muriel S. Webb, because of the large number of people who are returning from other ex-colonies as well (60,000 - 70,000 from Mozambique alone). In addition many of the indigenous inhabitants have been living on the poverty line for years and should also be assisted. She said any programme for Portugal must be flexible enough to include both indigenous people and returnees, "they may not be separated".

Member bodies of the Portuguese Council of Christian Churches, with an "in-country" constituency of 50,000 in an overall population of eight million people, are working through its service arm to bring short-term relief to returnees. They are also planning pilot projects designed to bring about permanent solutions to both the unemployment problem and the housing shortage. These projects include the construction of dwellings with local labour (rather than importing prefabs) and financing the establishment of woodwork and agricultural cooperatives, particularly in the Oporto, Coimbra and Lisbon areas.

In several districts groups of returnees are organising cooperatives on their own initiative. As a result, requests for self-help assistance are increasing as people struggle to become independent and self-supporting.

Mrs. Webb quoted a report by the Portuguese Council of Churches which estimated that at present there are between 600,000 and 700,000 returnees in the country, posing a serious problem for Portugal in its current, continuing transitional stage, which has its effect on the political, social and economic life of the nation.

EPS

WORLD YMCA EXECUTIVE BODY ENDORSES  
URUGUAYAN FOR SECRETARY GENERAL

Geneva (EPS) - A 51-year-old Uruguayan Methodist has been nominated as the next secretary general of the World Alliance of YMCA's. He is Mr. Hector Caselli, who since 1970 has been general secretary of the Latin American Confederation of YMCA's bringing together national associations in 14 countries.

Mr. Caselli's nomination was unanimously endorsed by the Executive Committee of the World Alliance which met in Leysin, Switzerland 12th to 16th July. He was considered the best qualified person from among the candidates put forward by national member movements. His nomination must be approved by next year's YMCA World Council, which will meet in Buenos Aires, Argentina 29th June to 6th July, 1977.

Before taking over the leadership of the Latin American Confederation, Mr. Caselli had served the World Alliance as secretary for youth and student work. Prior to his four-year stint in Geneva he had been with the South American Confederation of YMCA's since 1956, first as secretary for international programmes and later as associate secretary general.

While on the staff of the World Alliance, Mr. Caselli provided leadership for the 1966 Youth Conference in Stavanger, Norway, and the Youth Forum held in conjunction with the 1969 YMCA World Council meeting in Nottingham, England. He was a member of the team that prepared materials for the organization's centennial and collaborated in the Young Men's Conference of the Centennial at Paris in 1955.

Hector Caselli received his training at the Instituto Técnico, which at the time was the central YMCA professional training college in South America. He began his long YMCA career in Montevideo where he served the local association in several capacities.

The new secretary general will succeed Mr. Fredrik Franklin, who is retiring in October 1977 and returning to his native Sweden after 14 years in this post.

EPS

THEME OF WORLD YMCA QUADRENNIAL  
SET BY EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Geneva (EPS) - Theme of the 1977 YMCA World Council meeting set for Buenos Aires, Argentina is "Enlisted in Reconciliation", according to a decision taken last week by the Executive Committee of the World Alliance of YMCA's.

The 130 delegates from 44 countries attending the Executive Committee meeting in Leysin, Switzerland determined that major work would be done in three sections. Each would give particular attention to one aspect of the YMCA's work, ranging from new and changing constituencies to social and political realities in today's world.

Major issue before the council meeting, however, will be the report of the Study Group on Christian Leadership and Open Membership.

(more)

While national movements are not agreed on the basis for voting rights, the Study Group recommended that "the meaning of being a Christian movement constantly calls upon the YMCA, at all levels, continually to examine the implications of its Christian purpose". Furthermore, it said, "a voting member (should) be someone who has a personal commitment to Jesus Christ and who strives for the fulfilment of the aims and purposes of the YMCA".

The Study Group also recommended to all YMCA's that members of policy-making groups and professional staff be Christian "to ensure that in their policy-making bodies and leadership structures the Christian character of the YMCA be maintained and promoted".

These recommendations will go to the national movements for study before the Council meeting next year (June 29 to July 6, 1977).

Unscheduled though not unexpected was the call by young members of the Executive Committee for more spiritual development in YMCA programmes.

"Young people are not only attracted to and involved in programmes, but also become involved if they are strongly challenged by ideals", said the young members. "We are therefore deeply concerned that each movement give a strong emphasis to our spiritual mission. We believe young people have the ability to do this in innovative ways".

They reminded the Executive Committee that the 1969 World Council meeting had said youth should have 50% of the seats on the committees of the World Alliance and the national movements by 1977.

The Committee on Women in the YMCA asked the Nominations Committee to ensure that a representative number of women are proposed for the Executive Committee to be named in Buenos Aires. They also asked that preparatory materials give special attention to the role of women both in the YMCA and in society.

Appreciation was expressed for the effective refugee and rehabilitation work being carried out by YMCA's in 23 countries. A budget of Sfr. 1,711,400 was approved for this work during 1976. The report of the Task Group on Development drew attention to the 34 development projects conducted by YMCA's in 28 countries, most of which are in rural areas with strong emphasis on community development. The World Alliance office in Geneva has been instrumental in securing funds for most of these projects totalling US\$ 4,763,288.

The Executive Committee welcomed into membership the National Councils of the YMCA's in Venezuela and Cameroun, making a total of 58 member movements in the World Alliance.

EPS

#### DURBAN SYNOD URGES ADMISSION OF MARRIED MEN TO PRIESTHOOD

Durban, South Africa (EPS) - The Archdiocesan Council of the Roman Catholic Church in Durban, has come out in favour of admitting married men to the priesthood. "In view of a current shortage of priests", the 300 lay and clergy members of the council have also asked Pope Paul VI to consider readmitting former priests who have married.

EPS

WCC COLLOQUIUM TO REVIEW HELSINKI  
DECLARATION IMPLEMENTATION

Geneva (EPS) - Thirty representatives of WCC member churches in North America, Eastern and Western Europe will participate in a colloquium July 24-28 at Montreux, Switzerland to review implementation of last year's Helsinki Declaration on European Security and Cooperation. Special focus of discussions will be the status of religious liberty and human rights in states which signed the declaration.

Findings of the conference will become part of WCC General Secretary Philip Potter's report to next month's Central Committee meeting in accordance with a resolution by the WCC Fifth Assembly in Nairobi last December. They will therefore not be made public until then.

So far 45 member churches have supplied information to the colloquium. WCC member churches in "Helsinki states" number 144.

Churchmen at the meeting will be from Switzerland, Hungary, Romania, Great Britain, USSR, Denmark, United States, Poland, Norway, Netherlands, Finland, France, Sweden, DDR, FRG, Czechoslovakia, Bulgaria, Belgium, Spain, Portugal, Italy and Greece. Ambassador Olle Dahlén of Sweden, moderator of WCC's Commission of the Churches on International Affairs, will chair the discussions.

EPS

BRITISH METHODISTS CONDEMN  
MILITARY AID TO SOUTH AFRICA

Preston, England (EPS) - The Methodist Conference meeting here this month urged the British Government to enforce a total ban on the export of "materials and technology of direct or potential military value which may be of assistance to the South African Defence Forces". In addition it deplored the activities of British companies which continue to supply such products, and it called for the setting up of a widely representative task force on southern Africa.

The motion was proposed by the Rev. Brian Duckworth and the Rev. David A. Haslam. The former said it would back up those in South Africa working to change the system. It was also brought for the sake of British industry and commerce. Mr. Haslam brought detailed factual information to support the motion particularly its condemnation of the export of military aid.

The conference also expressed sympathy with those injured and bereaved as a result of rioting in Soweto and voiced horror and dismay at the reaction of South African security forces to the demonstrating school children at Soweto. The conference backed Christian Aid's Soweto appeal for the relief of victims and their families.

EPS

ADVENTIST HOSPITAL IN ADDIS NATIONALIZED

Washington, D.C. (EPS) - The Ethiopian Government has nationalized the 135-bed Seventh-Day Adventist hospital in Addis Ababa, one of the largest in the city. According to church headquarters here, the foreign personnel at the hospital will be transferred to other mission posts in East Africa.

In addition to the Empress Zauditu Memorial Hospital, the Adventists have operated a school for nurses and several other institutions including a college. There are 39 Adventist congregations with about 25,000 members in Ethiopia.

EPS



UNION OF METHODIST, ANGLICAN  
CHURCHES IN URUGUAY PLANNED

Montevideo, Uruguay (EPS) - Complete integration of Emmanuel Methodist Church and Holy Trinity Anglican Church in Uruguay's capital appears to be a distinct possibility climaxing four years of experimentation.

A new governing body has been formed by Christ Church, as the new congregation is called. It includes Bishop Stanley Cutts of the Anglican Diocese of Argentina and Eastern South America and the Rev. Oscar Bolioli, president of the Methodist Church in Uruguay, and two laymen from each tradition. Its task is to lead the way to full unity.

Authorities of both churches meeting together for two days recently agreed that study groups should begin studying the traditions of the two churches so as to arrive at a new, common order of worship. They also determined to sell the buildings they now possess to clear the way for construction of a new building more suitable to the needs of the united church.

EPS

TWO ANGLICAN CHURCHES  
AFFIRM WOMEN'S ORDINATION

London, Ont., Canada (EPS) - The Canadian House of Bishops (Anglican) has agreed in extraordinary session to proceed with the ordination of women. After discussing last-minute objections and reaffirming the action of last November, the bishops settled details as to the form of the ordination service and a date for services all across Canada. The first ordinations are not expected before November 30.

Meanwhile in Dublin delegates to the Church of Ireland General Synod voted overwhelmingly in favour of women's ordination. Out of more than 300 delegates less than half a dozen voted against a motion proposed by Archbishop of Dublin Alan Buchanan approving women's ordination in principle. The motion passed despite a warning from a Roman Catholic observer that it would be a step backwards in relations with his church.

In Finland a Gallup poll carried out in May among 500 Finns showed that nearly three-quarters favoured women being ordained (76% of women queried and 69% of men). Most in favour were 15-24 year olds, 82% of whom were for and 7% against.

The question will come up at next November's synod of the Evangelical-Lutheran Church of Finland. In the meantime nearly 600 parish councils are voting yes or no. However, the results will not be binding on the synod.

EPS

## UGANDAN MISSIONARIES ON THE JOB

London (EPS) - Some 33 Anglican missionaries in Uganda are well and continuing to fulfil their normal duties, according to word received here by the Church Missionary Society. In a press release dated July 14 the CMS reiterated its policy of not issuing any directive from London as to whether missionaries should return home, since they are now part of the autonomous church in Uganda under local leadership and direction.

The missionaries are spread out among the nine dioceses serving as headmistresses and teachers, doctors and nurses, hospital administrators, paramedical workers, bishops' secretaries, college lecturers and an engineer.

Although the present leadership of the country is believed to be predominantly Muslim, more than half the population are Christians. The nearly 3,000,000 Anglicans are led by 15 bishops, all but one of whom is Ugandan, as is the Archbishop, the Most Rev. Janani Luwum.

EPS

## MINISTRY AT THE OLYMPICS

Montreal (EPS) - Two types of religious activities are in progress this week among contestants in and visitors to the Olympic Games. An ecumenical committee including Protestant, Greek Orthodox, Roman Catholic and Jewish participants has printed two booklets for the 300,000 visitors expected in Montreal: one on "the Christian view of sports", the other a directory of church services which has been placed in every hotel, motel and boarding house in the city. Ministering to the spiritual needs of the athletes are a group of chaplains working around the clock at the Athletes' Village. In addition to counseling for coaches, team managers and athletes, some churches are holding services at hours convenient for the contestants and in such languages as Chinese, Malay and Swahili.

In addition several thousand Evangelical young people have come to Montreal under the auspices of Aide Olympique to do door-to-door visitation, personal witnessing, coffee-house ministry and public meetings. A crisis/friendship centre operating from a downtown Anglican church is giving assistance when needed.

EPS

FREEDOM OF INQUIRY  
GROWS IN SPAIN

Madrid (EPS) History is being made at the University of Madrid where a course on Protestantism is being offered in the Humanities Department taught by the Rev. Daniel Vidal, president of the Spanish Evangelical Church and rector of Madrid's Protestant theological seminary. The course emphasises the Protestant concept of the human being and society.

Another unusual feature is that Queen Sofia occasionally attends classes.

So far as is known this is the first time that a secular university in heavily Roman Catholic Spain has offered such a course under a Protestant instructor.

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## Ecumenical Press Service

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TEF ASSESSES MINISTRY TODAY,  
MAKES GRANTS TO 150 PROJECTS

Alajuela, Costa Rica (EPS) - Liberation theology, fast-growing Pentecostalism and the shattering reality of poverty in many Latin American countries were three ingredients of the Consultation on Ministry Today held here July 21-25.

Following the consultation, the 22-member Theological Education Fund Committee continued in session for five more days and awarded grants to nearly 150 projects in the Third World totalling more than \$500,000. The funds will support projects in faculty development, associations of theological schools, extension work, alternative patterns of theological education, advanced study centres, educational media, teaching methods and curriculum.

Vigorous and dynamic South and Central American spokesmen for the theology of liberation were led by Prof. Hugo Assman of Costa Rica, Dr. Jorge Pantelis of Bolivia and the Rev. Raul Vidales of Peru.

In dialogue with this growing theological movement were regional representatives of an equally strong phenomenon in the church scene, Pentecostalism.

Bishop Manoel Gaxiola of Mexico and the Rev. Norberto Saraeco of Argentina reported on how their churches are seeking to meet the needs of the poor in their countries. To give the discussions a note of realism the 50 participants visited a series of poor areas in Costa Rica. Here the sights and smells of oppression forced participants to reassess their theological understanding of human need and the mission of the Church.

Trends in theological education which became apparent during the TEF Committee's assessment of projects include:

- faculty development is increasingly being done in the Third World rather than in First World institutions;
- research and publication of theological insights about the Third World are appearing in all areas;
- theological "nerve centres" in several regions are contributing to theological renewal "owned" by the regions themselves;
- associations of theological schools provide an arena to discuss common concerns and are increasingly a locus for channeling funds to theological education;
- extension courses (by mail) are becoming the most creative alternative form of preparation for the ministry;
- patterns of renewal developed in the Third World are coming into dialogue with experiments on all six continents.

In addition to making grants, the committee reacted to proposals for the future of theological education within the WCC made by the Core Group of the Commission on World Mission and Evangelism on the basis of a two-year study by special task force.

The TEF Committee supported a concern for all six continents, a focus on all types of institutions doing theological education, a concern for various forms of oppression prevalent in the world, and the lodging of theological education within the WCC's Programme Unit on Faith and Witness. It also asked continued support for the associations, some funding capability, decentralized staffing and the formation of regional commissions.

(more)

A joint meeting of the present TEFC and the new commission still to be named was suggested for July 1977 in England. At that time a final series of grants could be made under TEF's third mandate and insights shared with members of the new commission.

EPS

BRAZIL SEEKS INDIANS' DEFENCE,  
PCR SECRETARY REPORTS

Geneva (EPS) - Land is the main asset of the Brazilian Indians, at least it used to be until ambitious landgrabbers began occupying "vacant" land and selling it to giant latifundios or plantations, according to the Rev. José Chipenda, staff member of the Programme to Combat Racism (PCR).

During a recent month-long fact-finding mission to Brazil Mr. Chipenda discovered that the Indian population of the country has declined from an original 3-4,000,000 to between 60,000 and 70,000.

The killing of Indians for their land became so prevalent that the Brazilian Government set up the Service for the Protection of Indians (SPI). In 1968 it was replaced by the Indian National Foundation (FUNAI), which since 1974 has hired anthropologists to help the Indians adapt to a new way of life.

The discovery of mineral resources in some Indian areas and the building of a 3,000-mile highway from Recife on the Atlantic to Peru on the Pacific have intensified the land fever and hit the Indians particularly hard. Many now find themselves pushed into the national parks where they struggle for survival.

After visiting Rio de Janeiro, Sao Paulo, Recife, Salvador and Brasilia, Mr. Chipenda concluded that Brazil is, sociologically speaking, a "multiracial society of classes and not a society of castes irreparably segregated". In principle all races participate in the existing classes, but in reality there are no non-whites in the upper brackets.

The dominant political and cultural structures are European or European-controlled, Mr. Chipenda found. "There is some truth to the saying that 'to be black is to be poor'", he stated, "but this does not mean that all poor people are black".

He noted two ways of moving upward in society: through education and through marriage. For poor people the chances of educating their children are exceedingly slim. Yet a few blacks do manage to get an education and then have a tendency to identify with the dominant culture by marrying people of lighter skin colour. Some blacks and mestizos, finding themselves accepted by neither the poor nor the wealthy and powerful, have begun seeking contacts with Africa, hoping to find their lost identity. Chipenda also found Brazil interested in developing markets in black Africa.

While in Brazil the PCR executive contacted the people working with Indians, both Protestants and Roman Catholics. He also met a number of anthropologists who spoke appreciatively of the World Council of Churches' work on behalf of Latin American Indians. They mentioned specifically the book The Situation of the Indian in South America, which gathers up the papers from a WCC-sponsored symposium held in Barbados in 1971.

Several anthropologists showed interest in a Second Barbados Consultation, proposed by the PCR for 1977. Some of them will also attend the International Congress of Americanists in Paris next month, which will examine the situation of Indians in North and South America.

DR POTTER PLEADS FOR EVACUATION  
OF WOUNDED REFUGEES IN BEIRUT

Geneva (EPS) - Dr. Philip A. Potter, general secretary of the World Council of Churches, issued an urgent appeal on August 2 for the evacuation of the thousands of persons trapped in the Tel al-Zaatar Camp in Beirut, Lebanon, whose lives are in grave danger. He flatly rejected the arguments put forward for refusing evacuation facilities.

Dr. Potter declared that the presence in the camp of several hundreds of wounded and of a very large number of children, estimated at half its population of some 30,000 persons, nullifies even the most crass military considerations. He strongly endorsed the warning issued on July 29 by the International Committee of the Red Cross to the factions responsible, that to delay further the evacuation would be to doom the wounded and other defenceless persons "to certain death".

The general secretary renewed the appeal of the WCC Executive Committee of March 1976 that the responsible parties should renounce violence and spare human lives through a renewed commitment to finding negotiated solutions, in order to help to establish a society with peace, justice and dignity for all, regardless of their religious, ethnic or political affiliations.

EPS

CHURCH UNION SURVEY SHOWS  
FRESH STARTS, NOTABLE GAINS

Geneva (EPS) - New negotiations for church union were inaugurated in Mozambique, Liberia and India during the period 1973-75, according to a survey made by the Faith and Order Secretariat of the World Council of Churches. Findings of the survey were reported in the July issue of the Ecumenical Review, the theological quarterly of the WCC published here.

The new negotiations are "important developments both in those countries and for the ecumenical movement as a whole", said Dr. Robert Welsh of the Faith and Order secretariat.

In Liberia a "dialogue for possible unity" has been launched by the Lutheran Church and the United Methodist Church. In India a timetable was set for inaugurating the Church of Christ in South India, scheduled to include the Church of South India and five Lutheran churches. In Mozambique five churches have affirmed their intention to unite and are preparing a document setting forth their goals. This will be sent to missionary societies and other bodies with which they have relations.

"Significant gains" were recorded in ongoing talks in Australia, Wales, South Africa, England and the USA during this period, Dr. Welsh noted.

The inauguration of the new Uniting Church in Australia is now set for 22 June 1977. It will include Congregational, Methodist and Presbyterian churches.

Decisive majorities in the Church in Wales, Presbyterian, Methodist and United Reform Churches have accepted a covenant to work towards one visible church. The next step is to prepare a scheme of union that will satisfy all the churches.

(more)

South Africa's Anglicans, Congregationalists, Methodists and Presbyterians committed themselves to unity in 1974, and a proposed Plan of Union is to be submitted to the churches for final approval in 1977 even though the Presbyterians last November objected to the proposal on episcopal ministry.

In England the Churches' Unity Commission has sent out Ten Propositions it feels the eight participating churches should answer if there is to be any advance in the quest for visible unity. The commission wants definitive answers by June 1977.

In the USA four out of the nine churches in the Consultation on Church Union have recognized the members of the other negotiating churches as being within the body of Christ, based upon recognition of their baptisms. A revised theological basis for union will be considered in early November. On the local level congregations in particular areas are holding a series of Eucharistic services in each other's churches.

The two-year survey turned up three new developments in church union negotiations. Instead of seeking to develop a plan of union which would ultimately be voted upon by the churches, Dr. Welsh reports "a self-conscious development of seeking union as a process to be entered into by the churches, especially at the grassroots level". This shift, while not entirely new, takes the local situation more seriously as the "vital arena for negotiating work", according to the Faith and Order secretary.

A second development stems from bilateral conversations between different confessional families, which have been in progress for the last 10 years. Some of these, such as the Anglican/Roman Catholic talks, have reached partial agreement on such things as intercommunion and the ministry. In some cases, Dr. Welsh believes, they have detracted from union negotiations with other Protestant communions.

The issue here, as Dr. Welsh sees it, is how to bring together in one concerted effort all union negotiations, bilateral and multilateral conversations, joint actions for mission and participation in national and regional councils of churches.

Thirdly, united churches are increasingly starting conversations with other churches to form even more inclusive unions. One example involves the Church of South India, Church of North India and Mar Thoma Church. Also, the first consultation of united churches in Toronto in June 1975 recommended that these churches make explicit declarations of full mutual recognition of membership and ministry. This was seen as a way of cementing relations among united churches and giving greater witness to the ecumenical movement.

According to Dr. Welsh, "major setbacks" in union negotiations have occurred in Sri Lanka and Canada. In Tanzania-Kenya, Lebanon and Nigeria the social and political situations within the countries would seem to have taken priority over the union negotiations reported in earlier surveys.

EPS

ECUMENICAL WOMEN'S ENCOUNTER  
SEEKS SPIRITUAL ENRICHMENT

Ramegnies Chin, Belgium (EPS) - Protestant, Orthodox and Roman Catholic women from religious communities and deaconess orders in 15 countries came together here last month for a week of spiritual enrichment. They were joined by lay women also engaged in church work.

Through days of listening, meditation, sharing experiences and celebration of the Word, they discovered once again that the essence of their common vocation lay not in the work they did but in their consecration to God and their commitment within the Church.

Four themes for the encounter stemming from a study of Ephesians 4:13 were: unity of faith; knowledge of Christ; human maturity; and fulness in Christ. Father Ghislain Lafont, a Benedictine monk of the Abbey of Sainte Marie de la Pierre-qui-vire in France, led Bible study.

The nucleus of the group was KAIRE, an interconfessional movement which furthers ecumenical encounter between women who share a common calling in the Church. This group has been meeting annually since 1971 when the World Council of Churches' Diakonia Desk directed by the Rev. Bengt-Thure Molander sponsored a consultation at the Ecumenical Institute outside Geneva. It brought together sisters who nurse, teach, train lay leaders, care for incurables, do parish work or spend their lives in contemplation and prayer. This year the group was joined by two Orthodox nuns from Romania, two deaconesses from a Coptic community in upper Egypt doing social work, and a Greek Orthodox writer.

The Romanians described their community of 340 Orthodox sisters, each of whom begins with some form of "active life" (e.g. teaching, training or welcoming pilgrims) and gradually seeks to deepen her spiritual roots through contemplation.

Some French sisters reported their community has moved from a contemplative life to a more active one as a result of being asked to care for a person who was dying of cancer. Now they have become a clinic for the dying where people are helped not only to die with dignity but also learn how to meet life and fathom the meaning of human existence.

An unforgettable Sunday was spent in a visit to a Cistercian convent at Soleilmont where the group heard about the life of the sisters there and shared in morning Mass. The afternoon was spent at the Abbey of Chevetogne where Roman Catholics of Greek and Russian traditions live side by side. One participant said, "The thought-provoking address by the abbot on 'The significance of religious consecration for Christian unity' put into words what we had been experiencing together and opened new doors for discovery".

EPS



PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN FOCUS  
ON JUSTICE FOR OPPRESSED

West Lafayette, Indiana (EPS) - Release for captives and those oppressed both at home and abroad was a major theme of the United Presbyterian Women's national meeting on mission which drew 5,000 women and men to Purdue University last month.

Political oppression on the international scene was detailed by speakers from South Africa, East Germany, Argentina, South Korea and Thailand. Stories of oppression in the USA came from black, native American, Latin and Asian women.

And people from India, Africa and East Berlin discussed mutuality in mission with the Rev. J. Oscar McCloud, general director of the church's Programme Agency, which helped to plan the meeting.

After participating in "issue forums", workshops and briefings on a wide spectrum of subjects, the voting delegates passed resolutions calling on their National Executive Committee to:

- organize a team visit to the Republic of Korea to witness with fellow Christians who are suffering including those who are in prison;
- help local women's associations become involved in ministry to victims of the criminal justice system;
- consider issues of human rights in the US and throughout the world when planning programmes for the next three years.

The Women's Opportunity Giving Fund for outreach in mission allocated gifts totalling \$2,235,894 over the past three years. The funds went to programmes and projects in the medical field both at home and overseas.

Ms. Brigalia Bam, director of the Women's Sub-unit represented the World Council of Churches at the meeting.

EPS

WCC YOUTH COORDINATOR NAMED

Geneva (EPS) - A 28-year-old Irish lawyer, Mr. Peter Moss of Belfast, has been appointed coordinator of the Youth Sub-Unit of the World Council of Churches. He will begin work here on October 1.

The Fifth WCC Assembly in Nairobi called for the strengthening of youth participation in all programmes of the World Council and endorsed the setting up of a sub-unit and working group on youth concerns. The core group which met in May gave "highest priority" to building networks of young people involved in the life and mission of the Christian Church in all parts of the world. It also called for exploring youth engagement in political witness for social justice.

Mr. Moss, a Presbyterian layman, was educated at Queen's University in Belfast, Gray's Inn London and Inn of Court of Northern Ireland. He has been a practicing barrister-at-law since 1971 and also lectures part-time at Queen's University. He has been the Irish correspondent and a member of the Advisory Board for Ecumenical Youth Service in Europe, a member of the Irish Council of Churches' Executive Committee and the Presbyterian Church's Youth Board. An active participant in church youth groups, Mr. Moss is in the Presbyterian delegation to the church union negotiations in Ireland.

EPS

INDONESIAN ASSEMBLY FOCUSES  
ON LIBERATION, UNITY

Salatiga, Java (EPS) - Church unity and liberation in all areas of life absorbed the attention of the 500 delegates and observers attending the Eighth Assembly of the Indonesian Council of Churches held here last month.

In his keynote speech on the theme "Jesus Christ frees and unites", Dr. J.L.Ch. Abineno, first president of the council, said the biblical concept of liberation referred not only to the "spiritual sphere" but also to other areas of life.

"In fact, we should probably say that the intention of liberation in the Bible is primarily socio-political liberation ... the clearest example being the liberation of Israel from Egypt", said Dr. Abineno.

Speaking of the importance of worship, he said, "We can encounter God only as we meet and serve the poor, the weak and the oppressed. What God desires is not cultic worship but the worship of service -- our sanctuary is in this world".

Dr. T.B. Simatupang, another president, pleaded for unity to be more "churchized" (an element clearly reflected in the activities of each church), more "congregationalized" (a live issue for members of each congregation), more "urbanized" and "regionalized" and more "societalized" (among youth, women, scholars, students, artists).

The task of churches in the Indonesian Council is clearly not easy when one remembers that Indonesia includes nearly 13,500 islands with varying cultures, religions, traditions, languages and economic situations and a total population of 130,000,000 of which 80% are Moslems and only 7% Christians.

Dr. Soritua Nababan, the council's general secretary, called on the churches to "test the spirits of the times". The fact that in the midst of development people are still seeking security from traditional teachings raises the question of the nature of fellowship in the Church ... "how superficial has been the meeting between the Gospel and our culture".

Other threats to the Church include, according to Dr. Nababan, "the rise and spread of the spirit of mammon" and "the spirit of surrender to fate, the spirit of despair in the face of difficulties and suffering, the spirit of confusion and apathy". He recalled a resolution passed by the Fifth Assembly of the Indonesian Council in 1964 calling on Christians to develop a simple style of life.

President Suharto, addressing the opening session of this assembly, warned against "the attempt to achieve happiness by material wellbeing alone". This would lead to national disaster, he warned. The President also underlined the importance of dialogue between people of different faiths. "It requires patience, openmindedness and solidarity, self-denial and mutual trust of all parties engaged in it", he said.

Most of the council's officers were given another four-year term. With the admission of four new churches, the council's membership stands at 48.

EPS

HOPEFUL FUTURE OPENS UP FOR  
GUATEMALAN QUAKE VICTIMS

Guatemala City (EPS) - A new life-style and new possibilities for a hopeful future have replaced a dismal, unhappy existence for many Guatemalans in the aftermath of the destructive earthquake earlier this year. Out of the rubble, new communities are rising with help from many lands and many voluntary and church organizations.

One of these has been named Tierra Nueva or New Earth. Its inhabitants come from the hardest-hit shanty-town in Guatemala City. Known as Zone 3, these slums were located where the city's sewage system dumped waste water literally on their door-steps. The people lived in squalor and earned less than \$50 a year. The earthquake shook the shanty-town dwellers into realising that if anything was to be done, they had to do it themselves. They decided to move to new land which they invaded. It was eventually allotted to them by the authorities.

Collaborating with the 800 families was the Committee of National Reconstruction and associations, including the Ecumenical Emergency Committee (CEE). Through many efforts, the government granted a large plot of land several kilometers outside Guatemala City on property previously owned by the municipality of Chinautla now belonging to the Housing Bank (BANVI).

Funds from the Commission on Inter-Church Aid, Refugee and World Service (CICARWS) have permitted the accelerated building of solid iron structures and roofing for dwellings. The full development and completion of these 900 homes will benefit 5,000 people.

Cost of each house is estimated at \$543.60. Together with sanitary installations, health, education and other community facilities, the project is estimated at \$590,000 for the first year. Erection of the buildings provides subsistence wages to community coordinators, themselves former shanty-dwellers, and day laborers recruited from among the resettled families.

According to CICARWS reports, the earthquake opened the way for the community to leave the hopeless shanty-town existence, break out of a system of mutual exploitation caused by an individualistic approach to survival, and begin living together cooperatively.

Sponsors of the project said they hoped that a religious community would be formed in this new settlement, growing out of biblical reflection on Isaiah 65: 17-25 and Revelation 21: 1-5. The ecumenical character of Tierra Nueva is clearly evident as Roman Catholics and Protestants have worked together to develop the programme.

EPS

## BLACK PROFESSOR DENIED ENTRY TO SOUTH AFRICA

Geneva (EPS) - Prof. James H. Cone, an authority on Black Theology who teaches at Union Theological Seminary in New York, has been denied entry to South Africa. At the invitation of the South African Council of Churches he was due to speak at a consultation on "The Role of Black Clergy in South Africa Today" being held in Hammaskraal outside Pretoria August 9-13.

Before leaving home Prof. Cone obtained a visa for South Africa from the embassy in New York. However, during a stopover in Geneva he was notified by the South African Consulate that the Chief Magistrate of Pretoria had declined to give permission for the SACC consultation. Therefore his visa was withdrawn. The South African Council of Churches made representations to the Minister of Interior on Prof. Cone's behalf but was rebuffed.

James Cone was a speaker at the Symposium on Black Theology and Theology of Liberation held in Geneva in 1973 under the sponsorship of the World Council of Churches. He also served as an adviser to the WCC's Programme Unit on Education and Renewal meeting in Berlin in August 1974, and attended the Fifth Assembly in a similar capacity.

EPS

## EQUIPPING AFRICAN TRANSLATORS

Kinshasa, Zaire (EPS) - Some 15 young people from eight African countries participated in a seminar for interpreters and translators held here June 21-July 4. Dr. Masamba ma Mpolo, vice president of the Church of Christ in Zaire and dean of the Protestant Theological Faculty, gave the opening address. Organized by the All Africa Conference of Church and the World Council of Churches, the seminar was led by Mrs. Tomoko Evdokimoff of the WCC's Language Service. She explained that the goal was to equip students, teachers, church workers and others to serve as translators and interpreters for African church meetings. Participants trained at an earlier seminar in Togo helped with interpretation at the WCC's Fifth Assembly in Nairobi last November.

EPS

## STREAMLINING MISSION OPERATIONS

Auckland, N.Z. (EPS) - Two New Zealand churches (Methodist and Presbyterian) have merged their overseas mission operations to reduce overhead costs and permit a more efficient use of the skills of the mission workers available. Explaining that under the new arrangement a Methodist might go to a position formerly held by a Presbyterian and vice versa, the Rev. Don Duncan, a Presbyterian mission administrator, said that was logical because "we do not send people overseas to perpetuate the denominational differences that exist in New Zealand".

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## Ecumenical Press Service

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WCC CENTRAL COMMITTEE OPENS  
WITH NEW LEADERSHIP TEAM

by Robin Gurney  
WCC co-opted staff

Geneva (EPS) - The first full meeting of the Central Committee of the World Council of Churches since the Fifth Assembly in Nairobi last November, opened here on August 10.

The chapel of the Ecumenical Centre resounded to the hearty singing of the 130 Central Committee members, representing 286 churches scattered throughout a hundred countries, and the some 100 advisers, guests and staff. Led by Archbishop Sundby, Primate of Sweden, they prayed God to be with them in the days ahead and to bless the work of the committee as it strove to face the challenges of the future. Then they adjourned to the main hall for the roll call.

First came the six new World Council Presidents. Then as General Secretary Dr Philip A. Potter struggled to pronounce the names of those in attendance, the great width of the representation of the Council's world-wide links became clearer. Well-known names from former Central Committees mingled with those from the world's trouble spots, Lebanon, South Africa, Rhodesia, Ethiopia.

Archbishop Edward Scott, Primate of the Anglican Church of Canada, in his first moderatorial address to the Central Committee, revealed a refreshing attitude to the ecumenical scene by eschewing jargon and asking four basic questions: Who are we? What do we bring to this meeting? Why are we here? What are our responsibilities?

The Moderator indicated the committee would be faced immediately with difficult decisions. By doing this, he said, it would retain deliberate and conscious control of the present and future life of the Council.

Admitting frankly that he was new to the international ecumenical scene, Archbishop Scott went on to relate a number of vivid personal experiences of ecumenism at local and national level. This complemented the report of General Secretary Potter who, widely experienced internationally, called for the end of a kind of apartheid in relations between the churches and the World Council of Churches.

Moderator Scott said in his report that the Church now faced a totally politicized world. He asked what kind of influence the churches are going to seek to exercise in their inevitable involvement in this kind of world. Not to take action, he said, is to act in the political realm.

These points were taken up in the follow-up discussion. Many Central Committee speakers expressed thanks for the two reports but also asked some pertinent questions. These pointed up differences in doctrinal interpretation of the Scriptures, cultural backgrounds, political involvement and understanding of the laity's role.

The differences were, however, second to what Philip Potter described as the "covenantal fellowship" between the churches and the World Council. God, said Dr Potter, breaks into the various cultures and histories and wills to create a community which includes all peoples and cultures under his sovereign will and purpose for the well-being of all.

(more)

This covenant fellowship is expected to be strained and the differences emphasized during the nine days of the committee meetings when discussion will turn to the priorities of the Council's work in a time of financial stringency as well as attempting to express the Council's and its member churches' position on such topics as human rights and religious liberty, racism in all its aspects, the world-wide problem of refugees and various other public issues. EPS

CHURCHES FACE "TOTALLY POLITICIZED"  
WORLD, STATES WCC MODERATOR

Geneva, August 10 (EPS) - Anglican Archbishop Edward Scott of Canada, in his opening address as Moderator of the Central Committee of the World Council of Churches used the experience of the recent Olympic games to identify some factors about the world situation and to relate them to the work of the WCC.

The world, he said, faces many complex and difficult issues. Suspicion, mistrust, the imputing of motives and of false motives are all situations that have to be faced. The world is totally politicized, he declared, and every public action has political implications.

"In this kind of world", the Moderator said, "the issue for the churches and the Council is not whether they are going to be involved in political issues but rather what kind of influence are they going to seek to exercise in the inevitable involvement. Not to take action, is to act in the political realm".

The Archbishop said that he spoke from the position of having been active in ecumenical activities on a local, regional and national level but that this his first address as Moderator, sees him in the position of "beginning to learn about and become closely associated with ecumenical activities on the international level".

There were four questions that the Archbishop put to members of the Central Committee and which formed the basis of his address. Who are we? What do we bring to this meeting? Why are we here? What are our responsibilities?

Answering the four questions, the Archbishop said that firstly, Christians are creatures of God, called to be co-creators with Him. Also they are prone to sin, prone to make Him in their own image.

In answering the second question the Archbishop drew attention to the diversities that are presented in the Central Committee and in the Christian Church, diversities "so great as to be almost unimaginable". But, he said, "God seems to have quite consciously created a world of diversity".

Central Committee members were attending the meeting, said the Moderator, first because their respective churches had chosen them as representatives and, second, because they had accepted the responsibility of planning their own time in order to be present.

Of the Committee's responsibilities, the Archbishop said that they would be seeking to implement the policy directions determined by the Nairobi Assembly in 1975. Therefore, there are three lines of accountability: to the churches, to Church members, and to God.

The Archbishop remembered by name a number of outstanding figures in the ecumenical movement who had died within the last year or so.

In reporting on the work of the Executive Committee and Officers since the Assembly the Moderator paid particular attention to the work of the Finance Committee, under the direction of Dr. Robert Marshall, and the Review Committee, under Archbishop Sarkissian.

The Finance Committee, he said, had taken steps to finalise the 1976 budget, prepare a unified financial statement, and review the financial prospects for 1977. The committee had also made provision for a total review of the Department of Finance and this Central Committee will be asked to take action on the initial recommendations arising from this review.

The Review Committee had a mammoth task, said the Archbishop, but it would be making recommendations about the best ways to mobilize the financial and personnel resources at the disposal of the Council. The Central Committee will need to take "hard decisions" on the Review Committee's report, he said, and continued: "There are only two alternatives before a Committee like this when difficult decisions have to be made - either to make them and so exercise deliberate and conscious control of the present and future life of the Council, or to back away from them, which will mean either that the Council drifts or that decisions are made by other bodies or groups with whom the responsibility does not constitutionally rest".

In concluding his address the Archbishop reflected on the talk of and revelation of the early Christians of "a new quality of life, a new depth of meaning, which they found in Jesus Christ crucified and risen". Along with this new quality of personal life, he said, they discovered a new kind of community. They discovered also that "in Christ" was the capacity to recognize and face the realities of the divisions and the walls of partition that existed and found that life which began to break them down - In Christ a new kind of freedom and a new breadth of unity was a reality. This freedom and unity could not easily be expressed in words but it brought a new dimension of faith, a new and deeper ground for hope and a new capacity to love - to love across barriers and partitions. Christians proved able to outlive, outlove and, if need be, outdie others".

Although this happened in the past, what people today are interested in, said the Moderator, was "whether there can still be discovered in Jesus Christ the capacity to live fully and abundantly under the ever present tensions and seemingly increasing pressures that are a part of today's world. To discover whether or not it can be said today that in Jesus Christ there is neither Roman Catholic nor Protestant; educated nor uneducated; capitalist nor socialist; exploited nor exploiter; black nor white; rich nor poor; male nor female but new creatures in a new community. New creatures in a new community where there is freedom to speak the truth in love openly; where under the leadership of the spirit walls of partition can be identified and struggled with in a continuing search for God's justice and God's righteousness".

The Archbishop ended with the searching question, Can we listen to one another in love? He asked: "dare we say like Paul that we can do all things through Christ who strengthens us"?

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POTTER CALLS FOR END OF "APARTHEID"  
BETWEEN CHURCHES AND WORLD COUNCIL

Geneva (EPS) - The Nairobi Assembly may have left participants feeling like the ecumenical movement was in the Wilderness, said Dr. Philip A. Potter, general secretary of the World Council of Churches. But for the people of Israel this wilderness period was a very fruitful time.

It was there that they entered into a covenant relationship with God, received the Law, and learned the way ahead. Of course they were tested by foes within and without. But they also received the manna or sustaining power of God to go on their pilgrim way.

In his first report to the new 130-member Central Committee on 10 August Dr. Potter assured his hearers: "God breaks into our varied cultures and histories and wills to create a community which includes all people and cultures under his sovereign will and purpose for the wellbeing of all".

Recalling that God gave Abraham his blessing, Dr. Potter said to bless meant to communicate one's strength, one's self to another, to enable the other to be vigorous and effective.

The ecumenical movement today is called "to make real in our time this covenant fellowship of sharing and offering the life of God to 'all the families of the earth'".

Several consequences flow from this.

"For too long", said Dr Potter, "there has been a kind of *apartheid* in relations between the churches and the World Council, with occasional and well-defined times of meeting and acting."

He called for an "interpenetration of the life of these churches within the fellowship of the World Council".

"There is no future for the ecumenical movement or for the World Council unless there is this inner mutuality between the churches and the Council. The member churches, however rich, important and self-sufficient they may feel, live a truncated and impoverished existence if they are unwilling to share their life with others and receive from them", he stated.

What is needed is "imaginative ways in which the churches can take part in shaping and carrying out together through the Council tasks essential for their renewal and witness". He called for a process whereby this can happen.

The opposite of the word "bless" is "curse", the speaker recalled. This means to withdraw one's support from another, to desert the other "so that he or she becomes weak, directionless and so loses weight, cracks up, becomes lifeless and is destroyed".

"The issue before the churches and the Council is clear - will the relationship be one of blessing or of cursing? We cannot be comfortable about the persistent signs of a curse which seems to hang over us. We must labour to lift this curse and place ourselves in the way of the blessing of our common Lord", he said.

Relations between the World Council and the churches can only become a living reality in each place, at the local level, he stated. Potter proposed giving major emphasis in the coming years to "how congregations can be helped to be vital centres for Christian Life, mission and service".

(more)

He also pointed out that a critical stage had been reached in relations with the regional and national councils of churches. "General consultations have proved unfruitful. There will have to be intensive encounter with each of these to discover how we can be mutually supportive", he said.

In addition to striving for a truly ecumenical fellowship, the Programme Guidelines Committee at the Nairobi Assembly suggested two other guidelines for WCC programme: "Incarnation of the Faith" and "The Struggle for True Humanity".

"We shall be asked in the next few days to adopt as an operational emphasis the interaction between theological reflection and action or engagement. The real debate about what mission and evangelism mean is whether we speak about faith *and* action, or faith *in* action and action *in* faith". He recalled that in Hebrew the term "word" also meant act, happening transaction. "God's word is his act ... Action/reflection is not just a methodological tool for carrying out our work. It is rather an expression of the nature of our faith and of the obedience it demands", he said.

As to the struggle for true humanity, the World Council is deeply and irrevocably committed to this struggle, according to Dr Potter. What is new in this guideline is that Nairobi asked that *all* programmes of the Council should be so involved. "Knowing the Lord and knowing our fellow human beings made in His image go hand in hand".

The World Council is committed "to promote the human, the blessing, and to expose and exorcise the inhuman, the curse". The basis of the Council is "the confession of him who is the truly human, Jesus Christ".

This requires the understanding and implementation of human rights, including religious liberty, "in face of the increasing violations of those rights everywhere". It also requires continuing to combat racism, "that dreadful curse which dehumanizes those who practise it and those who suffer from it".

Similarly, the equally dehumanizing discrimination against women in church and society can no longer be tolerated by Christians.

Nairobi also called for giving a lead in the search for a just, participatory and sustainable society, to act in solidarity with the poor and the oppressed and to exercise a ministry of peace and reconciliation. To be able to work on all these issues requires both the churches and the Council to "deepen our resources of spiritual life", he said, "to find new styles of living which emphasize what it means to be a blessing, and to practise asceticism".

EPS

MAJOR THRUSTS OF WCC PROGRAMMES  
PROPOSED TO CENTRAL COMMITTEE

Geneva (EPS) - The policy-making Central Committee of the World Council of Churches, which opened its annual meeting here 10 August, must decide the overall thrust of the Council's activities for the next several years.

To aid in this fateful decision, a Review Committee has been at work for the past several months. Composed of 12 men and women, laity and clergy, from churches in all parts of the world, it considered proposals for programme in view of the probable financial resources available for 1977.

All proposals by the Review Committee are being subjected to critical scrutiny this week and will be finalized by the Central Committee before it adjourns on 18 August.

The Review Committee has proposed four programme thrusts:

- " - the expression and communication of our faith in the triune God;
- the search for a just, participatory and sustainable society;
- the unity of the Church and its relation to the unity of humanity;
- education and renewal in search of true community."

In addition the Review Committee suggested two "operational emphases": more intensive participation by the member churches and Christian communities in the life of the World Council, and interaction between theological reflection and action in the total work of the Council.

A key recommendation by the Committee was that some programmes be concluded by early 1979 and others be deferred until 1979. Equally important was the suggestion that only one major consultation be planned by the Council in a given year.

The Church and Society Sub-unit was given responsibility for coordinating plans for a world conference on a Just, Participatory and Sustainable Society as the main event for the World Council in 1979. This is the department that prepared the World Conference on Church and Society in 1966, which suggested a number of the social action programmes picked up by the Uppsala Assembly (1968). In 1980 the focus will be on Evangelism.

The Review Committee suggested the Programme Unit on Faith and Witness give highest priority to continuing the study "Giving an Account of the Hope Within Us" incorporating a proposed new study on the teaching authority of the Church into it or the ongoing study on unity.

The Dialogue Sub-unit was given approval for a theological consultation on the nature and purpose of dialogue; this should include the syncretism debate as it appears in a global context. In the period up to early 1979 dialogues were authorized on the Church and the Jewish People and between Christians and Muslims.

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Anticipating a 1977 shortfall of Sfr. 1,180,273, the committee suggested cuts in the area of meetings, administrative expenses, the Department of Communication and by reallocation of staff positions. Fuller information is to be given to the Finance Committee, which will bring a report to the total Central Committee before adjournment.

In reviewing the programmes proposed by the Programme Unit on Justice and Service, the Review Committee gives priority in the immediate period to a study/action programme on Transnational Corporations, human rights and militarism and disarmament.

Although work with the United Nations is a major emphasis of the Commission of the Churches on International Affairs (CCIA), other parts of the unit also have an interest and they are asked to see whether they can help fund the CCIA office in New York, which is considered a priority for the unit.

The Programme to Combat Racism is encouraged to emphasize work with Latin American Indians and land rights of racial minorities up to 1979. The Special Fund to Combat Racism should be continued, according to the Review Committee.

The Commission on Inter-Church Aid, Refugee and World Service (CICARWS) is asked to give major attention to new ways of sharing both human and financial resources, and to relate this to the search for the unity of the Church.

In the Programme Unit on Education and Renewal several major modifications are proposed. Chief among them is the reshaping of the present Sub-unit on Renewal and Renewal Ministries into a "Sub-unit on Congregational Life". This follows a suggestion by the 1975 Nairobi Assembly that new stress be put on the life of local congregations. Three staff posts are suggested: a director responsible for communication with the churches and relations with movements and lay centres; one person concentrating on worship and spirituality; and one working on interpreting the total life of the World Council to local churches.

The Sub-unit on Education was encouraged to continue to work on Christian Education, general education, leadership development and ministries with children. In addition, it was suggested that the portfolio on biblical studies become part of this sub-unit since Bible study is integral to Christian education and congregational life. In calling for the conclusion of the family ministries programme, it was suggested that family education might continue in this sub-unit.

Women's concerns were recognized in the instruction to make the study on the Community of Women and Men in the Church a joint responsibility of both the Sub-unit on Women and the Faith and Order Sub-unit. High priority was given to a programme on Women in Rural Development.

On youth the Committee welcomed the news that a youth coordinator had been hired. The primary aim of the Youth Sub-unit, it said, should be to stimulate young people to explore and live out the Christian faith.

Stating that the Ecumenical Institute (Bossey) "enhances many of the major thrusts of the WCC", the committee said it should continue to receive funds from undesignated WCC income. This reverses a decision taken by the out-going officers of the WCC last year when the full impact of the Council's financial crisis became known.

WCC HUMAN RIGHTS GROUP  
PROPOSED BY DR. POTTER

Geneva, 12 August (EPS) - Dr. Philip A. Potter, general secretary of the World Council of Churches, today suggested that an advisory group on human rights be set up to continue the WCC's longtime concern for religious liberty. He made the proposal to the policy-making Central Committee meeting here 10-18 August.

At the same time Dr. Potter recommended that European and North American churches establish their own group "to promote study and frequent encounters among the churches" on issues of human rights and religious liberty. In referring to this regional effort, he said: "There needs to be set up a viable instrument for dealing with human rights and religious liberty issues which would reflect the ecumenical commitment of the churches and inspire confidence in and give authority to representations which come from the churches". He spoke of the need for "an effective network" to take advantage of the human rights commissions or commissions on international affairs that already exist in European and North American member churches.

Dr. Potter made these suggestions in a report to the Central Committee today (12 August) on the role of the churches in the signatory states in the application of the Final Act of the Helsinki Conference on European Security and Cooperation. In so doing he was complying with a resolution passed by the Nairobi Assembly of the WCC last December. That resolution instructed him to make sure that religious liberty was the subject of intensive consultations with the member churches and that a first report was given to this Central Committee.

The WCC advisory group, according to Dr. Potter's recommendation, would report annually to the Commission of the Churches on International Affairs (CCIA) and work closely with CCIA staff coordinating what is done in the different regions. It would have several functions: to act as a stimulus and a means of sharing ideas and experiences among the churches, bring groups together for intensive ecumenical work in this field; and provide "a means for monitoring specific problems of human rights and make recommendations on how they should be handled".

The general secretary expressed the hope that the churches involved would be able to provide the necessary human and financial resources both for their own effort and to "strengthen the CCIA to enable it to become a more effective instrument".

His recommendations will go to the Committee on the Programme Unit on Justice and Service (Unit II), which will bring specific recommendations to the Central Committee before it adjourns 18 August.

In his report Dr. Potter said that since Nairobi he had consulted the 144 churches in the "Helsinki states". He asked them about practices in their societies that might contradict the spirit or letter of the Helsinki Declaration, and sought their advice about how they and the WCC could aid in implementing the declaration. Nearly 50 churches replied.

Their answers, plus a summary of all the letters, appeals and comments on religious freedom in the European socialist states received by the WCC, were shared with participants in a small colloquium held in Montreux, Switzerland 24-28 July. Dr. Potter used the memorandum drawn-up by that colloquium in preparing his report to Central Committee.

(over)

Commenting on that colloquium, which drew 30 representatives of churches in North America and Eastern and Western Europe, Dr. Potter said: "...it is essential for the churches in the signatory states to be aware of the problems of human rights created and maintained by European and North American domination of other areas of the world. The importance of the Montreux meeting is that the churches in Europe and North America have begun to grapple together, as do those in other regions, with the problems they face .

In addition it showed that the WCC, as the Nairobi Assembly said, is "a place where the churches can come together to give one another pastoral and material support as they become more courageously engaged in the struggle for human rights where they are, and a place to share strategies for struggle".

"In this exercise", said Dr. Potter, "we rediscovered that as churches committed to our One Lord and Saviour and to the ecumenical movement, we have resources which are unique in this world .... With the guidance of the Holy Spirit we are able to challenge one another, openly and frankly, and achieve ever deeper levels of trust and mutual understanding".

EPS

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#### PHOTOCAPTIONS

The new Central Committee in a one-day meeting following the Nairobi Assembly elected as its officers(1831) Moderator - Archbishop Edward Scott of Toronto (second from left); Vice Moderators - Archbishop Karekin Sarkissian of New York and Ms. Jean Skuse of Sydney, Australia(on either end). Dr. Philip Potter(second from right) continued as General Secretary. (1832) Moderator Edward Scott giving opening address on 10 August. (1833) Plenary session of WCC Central Committee in main hall of Ecumenical Centre, Geneva. (1834) The two WCC women presidents are (seated) Dr. Cynthia Wedel and Mrs. Justice Annie Jiagge; (standing) Ms. Brigalia Bam, coordinator of Programme Unit on Education and Renewal. (1835) Two Indian Committee members: Metropolitan Paulos Gregorios and Mrs. Daisy Gopal Ratnam. (1836) Miss Ana Ferrari, Buenos Aires, and Dr. Emil Jeevaratnam, Sri Lanka.

Back page: (1837) Vice Moderator Jean Skuse chairing a plenary session with skill and humour. (1838) Seated in a place of honour are WCC presidents (left to right) Metropolitan Nikodim, Dr. T.B. simatupang, Dr. Cynthia Wedel, Archbishop Olof Sundby, Mrs. Justice Annie Jiagge, Prof. José Miguez-Bonino, Honorary President Dr. W.A. Visser 't Hooft. (1839) Archbishop Olof Sundby leading prayer during opening worship in Ecumenical Centre Chapel. (1840) Two members of Committee on the Programme Unit on Education and Renewal are His Grace Zakka Iwas of Iraq and Principal Olle Engstrom of Sweden, unit moderator. (1841) WCC staff member Father George Tsetsis listens to Metropolitan Parthenios Aris Coinidis, a fellow Greek Orthodox. (1842) One of the two youthful members of WCC Executive Committee is Mr. Bena-Silu, 30 administrative assistant to the head of the Kimbanguist Church. (1843) Comparing problems in the Americas are Dr. Oscar McCloud of New York and Bishop Neville de Souza of Jamaica. (1844) "This is how I used to do it", Dr. M.M. Thomas, former Central Committee moderator, tells Dr. Visser 't Hooft.



1832



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NEW WCC CENTRAL COMMITTEE SETS  
PRIORITIES, REORDERS FINANCE

Geneva, 19 August (EPS) - The ecumenical movement entered a new stage this week as the newly constituted 130-member Central Committee of the World Council of Churches met here to translate the dreams and desires of the Fifth Assembly into concrete projects and programmes.

Having experienced the joys of ecumenical fellowship at Nairobi, the committee was eager to see how to involve the 286 member churches more deeply in the search for Christian unity.

Under a new leadership team composed of Archbishop Edward Scott of Canada, Ms Jean Skuse of Australia and Archbishop Karekin Sarkissian of the Armenian Apostolic Church of America, the committee set about its task on 10 August with boundless vigour and enthusiasm.

The starting point was a 15-page report from a review committee appointed during a hurried, one-day Central Committee session immediately after the assembly. This group, chaired by Archbishop Sarkissian, had carefully reviewed the work of all three programme units plus the General Secretariat. Then it recommended specific priorities, keeping in mind the financial crisis that has plagued the Council for the last several years due to rising costs and the plummeting value of the US dollar.

Four programme thrusts were laid down:

- 1) the expression and communication of faith in the Triune God;
- 2) the search for a just, participatory and sustainable society (a world conference was urged in 1979);
- 3) the unity of the Church and the unity of humankind;
- 4) education and renewal in search of true community.

In carrying out these programmes, emphasis should be on more intensive participation by the churches and interaction between theological reflection and action, the review committee said. Some programmes should begin now and conclude in early 1979; others should be deferred until 1979.

The Finance Committee chaired by Dr Robert Marshall of the USA met in almost continuous session during the nine-day meeting (10-18 August) working and re-working the implications of various proposals. Meanwhile the unit committees debated whether to accept the review committee's proposals or to seek modifications.

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The Nairobi Assembly's concern for religious liberty in the framework of the Helsinki Declaration came on the agenda the third day when General Secretary Philip A. Potter reported on intensive consultations with the WCC's member churches in the "Helsinki signatory states".

Following Dr Potter's suggestion, an Advisory Group will be set up within the framework of the Commission of the Churches on International Affairs (CCIA) to "study the provisions found in or the measures taken under state legislation where human rights are ignored or violated". It will provide the World Council with a means of examining and evaluating problems and serious cases of violation of human rights.

Money will be sought for regular meetings of the Advisory Group, to collect and evaluate information on human rights situations throughout the world, for information and publication activities and promotion of more effective relations with member churches, national or regional councils on issues related to human rights.

Another major action was a resolution on the Transkei, the first bantustan or "national home" which the South African Government proposes to make "independent" on 26 October

The Central Committee condemned "the deceptive manoeuver of the South African Government to perpetuate and consolidate apartheid by the creation of the so-called 'independent' Transkei, by which 3,000,000 South Africans will be made foreigners in their own country". It called on member churches to urge their governments to oppose the bantustan policy, to withhold recognition of the Transkei ... and to have no direct or indirect diplomatic, commercial or other relations with the Transkei or any other activity which could imply recognition".

In a related action the Committee supported the UN Security Council's request that the South African Government comply by 31 August with its directive to respect the territorial integrity of Namibia and hold free national elections on the basis of universal suffrage. The government was also urged to recognize that SWAPO (South-West Africa People's Organization) is the authentic representative of the people of Namibia, and to release all Namibian political prisoners.

Noting the "very heavy toll of human life" resulting from "ruthless and horrific measures" used by the South African Government to suppress the recent revolt in Soweto outside Johannesburg, the Committee called on the regime "urgently to end violence against the oppressed majority, to recognize immediately their full human rights, to release political prisoners and to abandon apartheid".

The Central Committee authorized the Church and Society Sub-unit to make a representation at the 1977 International Conference of the International Atomic Energy Agency. It would call for a broad public debate on the nuclear energy issue and press the need to allay the anxiety of the public over maintaining and securing the nuclear fuel cycle. Long-term risks, the military implications and the ethical and religious issues would also be included in the WCC's submission.

The Ecumenical Development Cooperative Society (EDCS) was authorized to begin full operations as soon as US\$1,000,000 is in hand. The unit committee argued that since EDCS was not a commercial bank but an instrument of service which would lend small sums to start local development projects, it did not need the \$5,000,000 starting capital originally envisaged. Once EDCS establishes a "track record", it is hoped that many churches which have been hesitant about joining will "use the EDCS as an instrument for investment of money", and also find ways for individuals to contribute.

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In other public issues the Committee appealed to the mass media to avoid describing the crisis in Lebanon as a religious conflict. It said the establishment of a just and unified society there would contribute significantly to implementation of the national rights of Palestinians.

All UN resolutions on Cyprus should be implemented, said the Committee. The Turkish Government should stop the expulsion of Greek Cypriots from their homeland in the north as well as organized immigration to the island. And due respect must be shown for religious and sacred places.

General Secretary Potter was authorized to write to the Ethiopian Provisional Military Government on "issues of concern" and to send a delegation in cooperation with the All Africa Conference of Churches. A similar request was made to Dr Potter on the situation in Uganda.

A paper on refugees presented to the Committee called attention to the global dimensions of the problem which has taken on "unprecedented complexity, sensitivity and urgency". The WCC was authorized to intensify contact with churches in countries from which refugees come to see how they can work on the elimination of the causes of refugee situations.

#### Programme Decisions

Picking up the Nairobi Assembly's emphasis on the need to broaden ecumenical awareness in local congregations, the Central Committee approved the establishment of a Sub-unit on Renewal and Congregational Life as part of the Programme Unit on Education and Renewal. Its main role will be to relate, interpret and communicate the programmes of the WCC. It will also look for signs of renewal and share them with the churches. One staff member will be responsible for following up suggestions made by the Spirituality Workshop at Nairobi.

After much debate the Committee agreed that the study on the Community of Women and Men in the Church should proceed as a joint venture of Faith and Order and the Sub-unit on Women. It combines theological study with "reflection at various levels of church life leading to change". A woman with theological competence, aware of sociological issues and an advocate of women's concerns will be appointed by Faith and Order with the concurrence of the Women's Sub-unit.

The Education Sub-unit will seek the services of an experienced educator to help the churches to evaluate the role of their church-sponsored schools. And member churches will be encouraged to participate in the 1979 International Year of the Child. In the WCC scholarship programme special attention will be given to training women and flexibility was granted regarding candidates' age and length of study.

Following a decision to plan no more than one major WCC consultation per year, the Committee voted to designate 1980 as the year for an Evangelism Assembly prepared by the Commission on World Mission and Evangelism.

Action-oriented studies on Militarism and Disarmament, Transnational Corporations and the New International Economic Order were approved under the aegis of the Programme Unit on Justice and Service.

In a thorough discussion of the criteria for making grants from the Special Fund to Combat Racism, the present criteria were approved with minor verbal amendments. After this action had been taken the WCC Executive Committee approved grants to 37 groups in 19 countries totalling the record sum of \$560,000. They are divided into two categories: organizations of racially oppressed people, and "support

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groups" that align themselves with victims of racial injustice. In line with the criteria, the money is for humanitarian services (i.e. health and educational activities, social services, legal aid, etc.).

Major emphasis continues to be on support for organizations in southern Africa struggling for liberation from white domination. Some \$275,000 will go to the African National Congress of South Africa, Pan Africanist Congress of Azania, South-West Africa People's Organization, Namibia, South African Congress of Trade Unions and the Zimbabwe liberation struggle.

A completely new unified plan of finance for the World Council was approved by the Central Committee. In addition to presenting a consolidated budget to the member churches, it was decided to deduct from new designated project and programme funds 6-10% towards the cost of administration. In view of the anticipated shortfall in 1977, a special effort will be made to encourage undesignated funds from churches and agencies.

Echoing the Nairobi Assembly, the Committee approved the continuation of the Ecumenical Institute at Bossey. It also called for a new and more economic pattern of work, a 1977 budget based on assured income and a better control of administration. A special campaign for a permanent fund was authorized on the basis of terms to be set by the WCC's officers. Attempts will be made to secure seconded staff from the Orthodox and Roman Catholic churches and advice will be sought from lay training experts on all continents.

The committee on the General Secretariat called for a review of the 15 publications issued by various WCC sub-units. If cuts are necessary in the area of publications, as seems probable, these should be shared by the Communications Department and other units presently issuing publications. If more undesignated funds are not forthcoming additional reductions may have to be made in the News Office, Film and Visual Arts and the Radio/TV Sections.

The Executive Committee next February will receive recommendations from the General Secretary on the precise size and composition of the Geneva-based language service now that Russian and Spanish have been added to the list of working languages.

The Committee approved a new Programme on Theological Education (PTE) within the Programme on Faith and Witness to develop "an ecumenical vision of theological education in every continent". The new programme is to focus on those persons responsible for equipping others for mission and on the institutions in which they are trained or formed.

Five churches will become members of the WCC in six months time barring objections. They are:

- Episcopal Church in Jerusalem and the Middle East, 32,000 members.
- Evangelical Lutheran Church in Southern Africa, a union of four churches.
- Baptist Church of Bangladesh, 26,000 members.
- Methodist Church in Fiji, 167,155 members.
- Protestant Christian Church in Bali, 6,000 members, associate member.

When the Lutheran Church in Southern Africa becomes a member, the Evangelical Lutheran Church South Eastern Region and a similar church in the Transvaal Region will be removed from the WCC rolls. WCC membership will then stand at 289. EPS

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## Ecumenical Press Service

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Last week's EPS was devoted to a final news round-up on the Central Committee, which concluded on 18th August.

This week's issue contains documents from the Committee as follows:

- Extracts from Philip Potter's report on Human Rights
- Texts of resolutions on
  - Nuclear Energy
  - Transkei
  - Southern Africa
  - Lebanon
  - Cyprus
  - Ethiopia
  - Uganda
  - Refugees
- Mandates for
  - A sub-unit on Congregational Life
  - A study on Community of Women and Men in the Church

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HUMAN RIGHTS AND RELIGIOUS LIBERTY

*An Advisory Group on Human Rights was approved by the Central Committee to collect and evaluate information on human rights situations throughout the world, and to work with the churches, national and regional councils on issues related to human rights. The group, composed of two or three people from each region, will report to the Commission of the Churches on International Affairs.*

*The action followed a report by Dr. Philip A. Potter, WCC general secretary, on consultations he had held with churches in the "Helsinki signatory states" about the implementation of the Final Act of the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe. Herewith are extracts from Dr. Potter's report.*

... After careful consideration of the Nairobi Assembly debate on this issue I wrote to the member churches in the signatory states (19 March 1976, and indicated my intention to convene a "small, informal exploratory meeting with representatives of the churches in the signatory states, in order to determine what future steps might be taken and to assess what progress has been made on these questions since the Assembly in the individual churches and through the bilateral discussions some of (them have) undertaken since Nairobi"...

Some 30 representatives of the churches in North America and Europe - East, West, North and South - were engaged for five days in intensive discussion. This was a meeting of the churches. It was kept private in order to allow for the maximum of face-to-face, personal encounter and exchange of views and concerns. No subject was taboo. The Colloquium (at Montreux) was provided with the fullest information about religious conditions in the signatory states which the staff could compile in the time available. Further, participants were invited to provide whatever additional documentation or material they deemed relevant to the topic.

The Colloquium had before it three basic papers:

- a. A compilation of the member churches' replies to my circular letter of 19 March 1976.
- b. A summary of all the letters, appeals and comments on religious freedom in the European socialist states received or gathered by the WCC between October 1975 and July 1976. Among the authors were dissident Christians in the Soviet Union, groups or individuals outside that country, and priests and lay-persons of the Russian Orthodox Church who stated more positive views on the religious situation in their country. The document also contained summaries of letters from several member churches in Eastern Europe and of a letter from Eastern European delegates to Nairobi giving assessments of the Fifth Assembly and especially of the Nairobi debate on human rights.
- c. A summary of Western European and North American legislation which is or may be in violation of the basic right to religious freedom. This was the briefest of the basic documents, but when read together with comments submitted by some of the member churches in these countries, it provided the Colloquium with a broad view of the problems encountered in these states as well.

In addition to these papers, the participants had an up-to-date compilation of main WCC statements on religious freedom between 1948 and 1975, the report of the St. Pölten consultation on "Human Rights and Christian Responsibility"

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and the report of Assembly Section V on Human Rights. I understand that some members of Central Committee have received a document prepared by three Western institutes specializing in questions related to religious freedom in Eastern Europe. I should point out that, though this publication contained little new documentation which was not already included in the more humble, mimeographed background paper compiled by CCIA for the Colloquium, it too was made available to participants at the Montreux meeting....

It will be important in future discussions to show that all 10 principles of the Helsinki Final Act are inter-related and that, as the Assembly resolution stated, "Security and the development of genuinely human relationships across frontiers go together".

While Principle VII speaks of the commitment of the participating States to respect the rights to freedom of thought, conscience, religion or belief, it also calls for the promotion and effective exercise of civil, political, economic, social, cultural and other rights and freedoms. It speaks of the rights of national minorities to equality before the law, and to protection of their legitimate interests. It sees respect for human rights as "an essential factor for the peace, justice and well-being necessary to ensure the development of friendly relations and cooperation among" the States...

Churches in both East and West cannot deal with religious liberty questions without facing the other realities. The churches in the signatory states must study the whole of the Helsinki Final Act in the light of ecumenical insights into the various subjects dealt with there. We need more than a compendium on human rights and religious liberty. We also need to consider the positions on disarmament, co-existence and other matters we have been considering since at least 1954 in the Evanston Assembly.

Religious liberty can only flourish when the other Principles of the Final Act are put into effect, just as these other Principles depend on the exercise by citizens and groups of their human rights as a contribution to detente and cooperation. We cannot as churches speak responsibly on this dialectical relationship without coming to terms with all the issues involved.

In the ecumenical context, a commitment to use the framework for dealing with human rights established by the Fifth Assembly implies the need to see human rights in a universal perspective, and at the same time to engage in concrete actions in the national and regional context in which the churches live and witness to their faith in One Lord and Saviour.

The report of the Colloquium underlines this when it points to the diversity of "confessional, historical and social traditions of the various regions and countries as well as (of) the ecclesiological background and the concrete circumstances in which these churches live and witness". (para. 19) But while it says that work for the implementation of religious liberty must take into account this diversity, the report does not give clear evidence of the need expressed in the discussion at Montreux for further biblical and theological reflection on religious liberty and human rights within each of these different contexts and in the ecumenical fellowship.

As long ago as 1958, the Nyborg Central Committee agreed that a study on religious liberty should be undertaken..... The Third WCC Assembly adopted a statement on "Christian Witness, Proselytism and Religious Liberty in the setting of the WCC".... The Lutheran World Federation and the World Alliance of Reformed Churches have more recently done important work on this from a general perspective.

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We have made general statements but not a thorough biblical and theological study, and I think it is time this was done in a fully world and ecumenical perspective.

The Colloquium has recommended that an advisory group be set up within the Commission of the Churches on International Affairs "to examine and evaluate problems and serious cases of violation of human rights which are brought to the attention of the WCC". I would welcome this proposal, while at the same time pointing out that the CCIA Executive Committee and its Commissioners have always been concerned with this matter, and have made important contributions not only to ecumenical work in this field but to the United Nations as well. Further, the CCIA has developed close collaboration with ecumenical bodies and groups in Asia, Africa and Latin America to deal specifically with human rights concerns in those regions.

So the problem now is to see what shape this sort of cooperation is to take in North America and Europe. In Europe, as in some other regions, there exists a regional conference of churches. But though the Conference of European Churches has held consultations on matters related to Helsinki, participants in the Colloquium did not feel that it had the resources and personnel to take full responsibility for human rights and religious freedom in this region. There is no equivalent ecumenical conference in North America.

The churches in Europe and North America do have structures potentially capable of dealing with these concerns. Particularly since the St. Pölten consultation, many member churches and national councils of churches have set up human rights commissions. Other churches and councils have national commissions on international affairs or foreign affairs departments.

I would make the following recommendations to the Central Committee:

- a. The advice of the Colloquium to set up an advisory group on human rights within CCIA should be accepted. It should report annually to the CCIA Commission and, working closely with CCIA staff, coordinate what is done in different regions of the world. It should act as a stimulus and a means of sharing ideas and experiences among the churches, and bring groups together for intensive ecumenical work in this field. It should also provide a means for monitoring specific problems of human rights, and make recommendations on how they should be handled.
- b. In order that this advisory group may work effectively, it must depend on the active participation of regional bodies. With regard specifically to the region comprised by the signatory states of the Helsinki Final Act there needs to be set up a viable instrument for dealing with human rights and religious liberty issues which would reflect the ecumenical commitment of the churches and inspire confidence in and give authority to representations which come from the churches directly or from the WCC/CCIA. This demands that the churches concerned establish an effective network which would take advantage of their existing structures. This could perhaps take the shape of a constituted group of church representatives which would promote study and frequent encounters among the churches on these issues. Coordinators could be appointed in Eastern and Western Europe and in North America.

In Europe it should work either in close cooperation with, or under the aegis of, the Conference of European Churches. If desired, this group could schedule some of its meetings in Geneva in order to ensure close contact with the regular work of CCIA, and it should find means of sharing concerns to be addressed to the CCIA advisory group on human rights. It is my understanding, based on the

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discussions at the Montreux Colloquium, that the churches involved would be able to provide the necessary human and financial resources both to accomplish this and to strengthen the CCIA to enable it to become a more effective instrument.

The significance of this particular exercise for the whole ecumenical movement is not to be found in the universal applicability of the conclusions contained in the report of the Colloquium. Nor can its importance be found in the global validity of the Helsinki Final Act. The Utrecht Central Committee has already drawn attention to the dangers inherent in suggesting either that the Helsinki Agreement is a model for the resolution of conflicts wherever they exist, or that its application in the signatory states will resolve the problems of other regions. In fact, it is essential for churches in Europe and North America to be aware of the problems created and maintained by European and American domination of other regions of the world.

The importance of the Montreux meeting is that the churches in Europe and North America have begun to grapple together, as do those in other regions, with the problems they face.

In this exercise we have rediscovered that, as churches committed to our One Lord and Saviour and to the ecumenical movement, we have resources which are unique in this world. Section V at Nairobi spoke of the WCC as "a place for mutual challenge of the churches to become better servants, a place where the churches can come together to give one another pastoral and material support as they become more courageously engaged in the struggle for human rights where they are, and a place to share strategies for struggle". At Montreux we have seen again that the WCC is such a place. We are able to share with each other some of the hard realities of our world which challenge our faith and life as churches in our various societies. It is this sharing that strengthens us, makes us more free with one another, and renews our commitment to continue to struggle together for ever greater unity and mutual understanding.

This is a substantial part of the message which we have to offer to a troubled and divided world, and it is this which pushes us to become ever more effective promoters of justice and respect for the human rights of all, without which these sinful divisions can never be healed.

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#### STATEMENT ON NUCLEAR ENERGY

*The Central Committee authorized the Sub-unit on Church and Society to make a representation on public acceptance of nuclear power to the international conference scheduled by the International Atomic Energy Agency for May 1977 in Salzburg. In accordance with the recommendations of the Nairobi Assembly it also encouraged further worldwide ecumenical debate on the technical, moral and spiritual issues posed by the expanding use of nuclear energy.*

*Following is the text of the submission which the World Council of Churches plans to make to the international conference:*

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Through a careful process of investigation and inquiry, the World Council of Churches has become aware of a decline of public confidence in existing social institutions responsible for maintaining and securing the nuclear fuel cycle. In the light of the growing concern, the World Council of Churches seeks a direct assurance from the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) and other responsible governmental bodies that new initiatives will be taken to resolve the anxiety and to place the acknowledged risks of an expanding nuclear power industry in a more realistic long-term perspective.

The provision of energy resources for all peoples is an essential part of the struggle for a more just, participatory and sustainable society. In view of current uncertainties over the maintenance of energy supplies, particularly to large urban communities, the WCC appreciates the necessity of retaining nuclear power as one of several possible options for the future in many countries. This should in no way diminish the search for alternative safer forms of energy. The credibility of the nuclear option can be achieved only through the resolution of the major questions that are inherent in the use of nuclear technology. These questions must be tackled without further delay and certainly before a large and irreversible world-wide commitment is made.

1. The need for an open public debate. Without full public consultation on the social and ethical implications of long-term energy choices, decisions will be taken largely in terms of commercial and consequently short-term economic interest. Moreover, at present, the public debate is confused. Advocates of nuclear energy plead the achievements of unproven technology, minimizing the unsolved problems, while critics ignore the societal costs of other major energy options, and demand unrealistic absolute perfection in the design and construction of nuclear power systems. The churches seek to encourage an informed public examination of these issues.

2. Facing the long-term risks of adopting nuclear technology. The WCC stresses the necessity of resolving the problems of secure waste disposal and those posed by the drift into a dependency on the plutonium fuel economy. While much of the present debate and current analysis focusses on the performance of light-water reactors, the predominant issue concerns the operation and safe management of breeder reactors without which nuclear fission has no long-term existence.

3. Access versus security. Concern for the security of sensitive nuclear technologies has produced the secretive nuclear club. A just global society implies not merely equal opportunity to aspire and to achieve, but affirmative action to redress imbalances. This is incompatible with the pseudo-secrecy and patronage practiced by developed nuclear countries. The WCC is concerned how the "access" versus "security" issue is to be resolved.

4. Military implications. The development of nuclear energy for civilian purposes is linked with the development of nuclear weapons. The nature of this "coupling" and the principles guiding those who try to contain the spread of nuclear weapons must be directly related to the anticipated future scale and technologies of nuclear energy production.

5. Social implications of nuclear energy. Nuclear energy provides the only presently available alternative fossil fuels and hydro-power for the supply of bulk electric energy. However this sophisticated technology seems likely to reinforce the trend to centralization and urbanization of society which many are trying to reverse. Moreover, the sale of nuclear technology to regimes with repressive social and racial policies has further heightened the fear that nuclear energy will

increase injustice. At the same time all countries want the benefits of nuclear energy. The social implications of what is done need to be identified and explored.

6. Ethical and religious issues. The validity of underlying presuppositions of faith and values that appear in the debate over the future role of nuclear energy needs to be acknowledged and examined. The paradox of nuclear energy in offering the prospect of immense potential and many incalculable risks remains totally unresolved. The decisions are too important to remain confined within the technical arena of the nuclear scientific and engineering communities. However, without the full collaboration of these expert groups there can be no resolution of the questions already listed, and in each national situation. The World Council of Churches appeals to this body of expertise to provide a more considered response to these questions.

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#### RESOLUTION ON THE TRANSKEI

On 26 October 1976 the South African Government intends to declare the Transkei "independent", the first of South Africa's bantustans to be so designated. This would be the "national home" of all Xhosa-speaking Africans in the country with the exception of those deemed to belong to the Ciskei Bantustan. The Transkei's present population of about 1.7 million people would in theory swell to around three million when all those obliged to assume its citizenship are included.

The concept which underlies the creation of the "independent" Transkei (and of the other nine bantustans, each destined for eventual "independence") is based on the notion of supposed "tribal" or "national" identities which are racially determined. It creates artificial divisions within the African population and between them and other South Africans. It is rooted in the doctrine of apartheid. In theory and in practice the bantustans encapsulate apartheid, and their recognition as "independent" entities would clear the way for the emergence of a South Africa with no black citizens at all.

The South African Government is insisting that on "independence" all Transkeian citizens, many of whom were born in urban South Africa and have never seen the Transkei, shall surrender their South African citizenship and become citizens of the Transkei alone. They will thus be obliged to surrender against their will for all time any share in by far the greater part of the wealth which has been created through their labour and the space of their own country. Therefore, the political function of the "independent" Transkei would be to serve as the first of the enclaves within which the African people would be allowed in principle to exercise their civil rights on condition that they abandon their birthright.

The underdevelopment and overpopulation of the Transkei mean that it will be forced to continue to depend upon the evil system of migratory labour in order to avoid even more desperate poverty. This dependence dovetails neatly with the dependence of the white South African economy on an abundant supply of cheap black labour, and so the economic function of the "independent" Transkei would be to serve as a labour reservoir.

The Xhosa-speaking people had expected to enjoy full political rights within South Africa. They oppose the exchange of their South African citizenship for citizenship of the Transkei. They had no say in the unilateral decision of the white Parliament to create the bantustans and to deprive them of their rights as citizens of South Africa.

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The Central Committee of the World Council of Churches, recalling that the WCC has on many occasions declared its opposition to apartheid and to racism as being contrary to the Gospel and incompatible with the nature of the Church of Christ and violating basic human rights, therefore

condemns the deceptive manoeuvre of the South African Government to perpetuate and consolidate apartheid by the creation of the so-called "independent" Transkei, by which these three million South Africans will be made foreigners in their own country;

condemns any other policy which would further isolate and divide the African population;

calls on member churches of the WCC to expose the evil of the bantustan policy;

recommends in this connection to member churches for their study and for further dissemination of information the booklet South Africa's Bantustans: What Independence for the Transkei? published by the WCC's Programme to Combat Racism;

calls on member churches to urge their governments to oppose the bantustan policy, to withhold recognition of the Transkei as an independent State and to have no direct or indirect diplomatic, commercial or other relations with the Transkei, or any other activity which would imply recognition; and

expresses its solidarity with and compassion for the Xhosa-speaking people as they struggle for the legitimate rights of all Africans in South Africa.

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#### RESOLUTION ON SOUTHERN AFRICA

The liberation struggle in Southern Africa has entered a new and crucial stage. The intensification of the war in Zimbabwe (Rhodesia), the deadline given by the UN Security Council to comply with its directives on Namibia and the uprisings in South Africa all denote significant new phases in the struggle for freedom and dignity in these countries.

The Central Committee recalls the statement of the Fifth Assembly (Report of Section V) that "Southern Africa deserves continued priority in the churches' combined efforts because of the churches' own involvement in the area and the legal enforcement of racism there. What is at stake is faithfulness to the fulness of the message entrusted to the Church".

#### I. ZIMBABWE

In Zimbabwe the collapse of the 'constitutional talks', the closure of the Mozambique border and the intensification of the armed struggle by the freedom fighters are highly significant developments. As a recent report of the International Commission of Jurists has shown conclusively, the policies of the illegal Rhodesian régime are 'the intensification of the repression and growing adaptation by Southern Rhodesia of the laws and values of the apartheid system in South Africa'.

The Central Committee of the World Council of Churches expresses grave concern at the continued oppression of the people of Zimbabwe by the illegal régime, the arbitrary imprisonment and detention of political leaders and others, the execution of freedom fighters, the criminal measures of collective punishment and the con-

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tinued denial of human rights under the disguise of the so-called preservation of Western civilization.

It calls upon the member churches to intensify their efforts to mobilise public opinion in favour of the liberation of Zimbabwe and to extend to the people of Zimbabwe all the moral, political and humanitarian assistance necessary in their struggle for the achievement of their right to self-determination and independence.

## II. NAMIBIA

South Africa, which illegally occupies Namibia, has been asked by the UN Security Council in its resolution No. 365 to comply by 31st August, 1976 with its directives to respect Namibia's territorial integrity and to declare its intention to hold free national elections on the basis of universal suffrage under UN supervision. Far from respecting this directive, the South African Government under the façade of the so-called constitutional conference has unleashed a reign of terror in the country which it illegally occupies and is pursuing a policy of 'bantustanisation' which attempts to divide the Namibians when they seek unity.

The Central Committee of the World Council of Churches calls upon the South African Government to comply with the UN directives with regard to Namibia, to recognise that SWAPO (South West Africa People's Organisation) is the authentic representative of the people of Namibia; to release all Namibian political prisoners, including all those imprisoned or detained in connection with offences under so-called internal security laws; and

calls upon the member churches

- a) to increase their support to the people of Namibia in their struggle for liberation, to spread information about the situation, to make intercession for the people and to give appropriate and meaningful aid;
- b) to ask their governments to support effectively the UN directives regarding Namibia;
- c) to intensify action against Western military and economic collaboration with South Africa with its grave implications for Namibia; and
- d) to encourage their members to participate in the International Week of Solidarity with the people of Namibia beginning on 27 October 1976.

## III. SOUTH AFRICA

The liberation struggle in South Africa has entered a new phase with the recent revolt which erupted in Soweto and has spread in many parts of the country. The white régime has tried to suppress this revolt with ruthless and horrific measures, and there has been a very heavy toll of human life. These uprisings are a manifestation of the new momentum of the struggle for freedom and dignity in South Africa.

South Africa's enormous militarism and its reinforcement by active military and economic cooperation with major Western powers constitute a major threat to peace. This threat is intensified by the recent Franco-South African agreement on nuclear collaboration.

The Central Committee of the World Council of Churches reiterates the statement of the Acting General Secretary about the Soweto massacre of 18 June 1976, and in deep concern for all people in South Africa who are suffering in this situation

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calls upon the South African régime urgently to end violence against the oppressed majority, to recognise immediately their full human rights, to release forthwith all those imprisoned for political reasons, and to abandon apartheid; and

urges all member churches and particularly the churches in South Africa to do everything in their power to counteract the repressive violence of the régime and to demonstrate by action their solidarity with the oppressed; and

urges member churches in countries which maintain military and economic links with South Africa to press their governments to end this collaboration; and to intensify their efforts to discourage white emigration to South Africa, by urging the Press and other agencies not to accept advertisements for or to recruit white labour for South Africa.

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#### RESOLUTION ON LEBANON

The Central Committee, meeting in Geneva, August 1976, endorses the statement of the WCC Executive Committee made in March 1976 declaring that "the conflict in Lebanon is essentially political, not religious", and appealing to "the people and all parties involved in Lebanon to renounce violence and to spare human lives through a renewed commitment to finding negotiated solutions".

The Central Committee commends the pastoral letter of the officers of the Middle East Council of Churches (MECC) sent in June 1976 to member churches in Lebanon where they affirmed that "our Christian faith compels us to create a spirit of unity, understanding and cooperation towards the wellbeing of all people in Lebanon regardless of their religious and political affiliation". The Central Committee further appeals to the mass media to avoid describing the Lebanon crisis as a religious conflict.

The Central Committee recognises that urgently needed short-term relief and long-term reconciliation, for which the MECC and member churches among others are working and praying, are still imperilled by indiscriminate but also by calculated killing and destruction. Civilian populations have often been the first to suffer, for example in Damour, Koura and Tel al-Zaatar, and they need immediate humanitarian relief. But such outrages can only be avoided in the future if the spirit of reconciliation in terms of forgiveness, understanding and reconstruction is revived. The people and the leadership of Lebanon, together with all their neighbours, need to recreate the unity of Lebanon as a unique challenge of hospitality and peace between people of different faiths and ideologies.

The Central Committee expresses gratitude to the churches for their willing assistance to people affected by the conflict in spite of almost insurmountable difficulties. It urges them to continue and expand participation in relief and rehabilitation efforts as the tragedy continues and new avenues of assistance become open.

The Central Committee is convinced that any work for the establishment of a just and unified society in Lebanon would contribute significantly to implementation of the national rights of the Palestinians to self-determination. Conversely any solutions to the wider problems of the Middle East need to be related to resolution of the Lebanon crisis. The Central Committee reiterates the conviction of the WCC Fifth Assembly that "the wellbeing of each party in the Middle East depends upon the wellbeing of all other parties".

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RESOLUTION ON CYPRUS

The Central Committee of the World Council of Churches meeting in Geneva, 10 to 18 August, 1976, reiterates its deep concern about the situation in Cyprus and the plight of 200,000 refugees and is alarmed by the continuing failure to implement successive resolutions on Cyprus passed by the UN General Assembly, Security Council and Commission on Human Rights. It is gravely concerned by the continuing expulsion of Greek Cypriots from their homeland in the north, the changing of the demographic pattern of Cyprus and the desecration of religious and sacred places.

The Central Committee therefore:

- calls for the immediate implementation of all relevant UN resolutions on Cyprus;
- urges the Turkish Government that an immediate end be put to the expulsion of Greek Cypriots and to the organised immigration of Turks to the island and that the return of all refugees and displaced persons to their homes in safety be facilitated;
- calls for due respect for religious and sacred places;
- calls for immediate resumption, in a meaningful and constructive manner, of the negotiations between the representatives of the Greek Cypriot and Turkish Cypriot communities under the auspices of the UN Secretary General, to be conducted freely and on the basis of equality with a view to reaching a mutually acceptable agreement based on their fundamental and legitimate rights.

RESOLUTION ON ETHIOPIA

The Central Committee of the WCC requests the General Secretary to write to the Provisional Military Government of Ethiopia on issues of concern.

The Committee resolves to send a delegation in cooperation with All Africa Conference of Churches (AACC) to visit Ethiopia as early as possible for further conversations with the churches and the government.

The Committee further requests the General Secretary to continue contacts with the Government of Ethiopia and also to make a detailed study of recent developments in Ethiopia.

RESOLUTION ON UGANDA

In view of developments in Uganda, which have been closely followed by the WCC and the AACC, the Committee requests the General Secretary, in collaboration with AACC, to take appropriate action.

EPS

THE CHURCHES' CONTEMPORARY RESPONSIBILITY TO REFUGEES

The Central Committee, considering the increased scope, complexity and urgency of the refugee problem around the world:

1. Receives the document "Refugees - A Global Concern" and commends it to the churches for study;
2. Expresses appreciation to the churches and church agencies for their long-standing support for WCC refugee programmes, and especially to those who respond creatively to the efforts made by the Commission on Inter-Church Aid, Refugee and World Service to meet refugee needs, which are in many cases very different today than the ones the churches were traditionally structured to deal with.
3. Recommends
  - a) that the WCC continue to stimulate meaningful involvement of the churches in work with refugees, stressing their unique pastoral and political role and their continuing mission to help those who seek refuge;
  - b) that the WCC, in close communication with its member churches, work to deepen the understanding of the causes and effects of refugee situations, and in particular, seek or intensify contact with churches in countries from where refugees come with a view to discuss:
    - the conditions that have caused people to leave their country, connecting the churches' overall concern for human rights with those they have for refugees;
    - ways in which those churches might engage in collaboration and common reflection with churches in countries of reception;
    - ways in which the churches can work towards the elimination of the causes;
    - ways in which the WCC and the member churches might assist each other in this regard;
  - c) that the WCC and its member churches urge governments to facilitate the repatriation of refugees who wish to return to their countries and to give full support to the efforts of UNHCR in this respect;
  - d) that the WCC engage in theological reflection on the responsibility of the churches to be in solidarity with refugees as persons and as victims of deeper conflicts, keeping in mind that since early times the churches have considered the providing of refuge an integral part of their spiritual and moral responsibility;
  - e) that the WCC and its member churches intensify their advocacy role in pressing governments to adopt more liberal policies for the admission and support of refugees and give special consideration to a speedy acceptance of refugees in cases of emergency; and to promote the full and productive integration of long-standing refugees into their new communities;
  - f) that WCC, through CICARWS, convene a consultation to assess the problems resulting from new emerging refugee situations and the churches' response to them;
  - g) that the WCC and the member churches use their influence at national and international levels to promote the adoption, ratification and application of a comprehensive Convention on Territorial Asylum and to work towards a more liberal mandate for UNHCR which would extend its protection and assistance to de facto refugees who do not presently benefit from it.



SUB-UNIT ON RENEWAL AND CONGREGATIONAL LIFE

A new sub-unit on "Renewal and Congregational Life" was approved by the Central Committee. Noting that the Nairobi Assembly had placed major emphasis on this subject, the committee agreed with the Review Committee that "congregational life should not be narrowly understood as referring only to local churches, but also as embracing other communities and groups".

The sub-unit was enjoined to be "sensitive to different understandings of the nature of the congregation. Churches within the WCC have different ecclesiologies", said the Central Committee, "and in the implementation of any programmes due respect must also be paid to canonical and constitutional structures and authority, keeping in mind the Toronto declaration of the Central Committee, 1950".

The main role of the sub-unit is "to relate, interpret and communicate the programmes of the World Council of Churches, in collaboration with other units and the Department of Communication, especially in relation to congregational life. The sub-unit should be the vehicle which seeks to discover signs of renewal wherever it is happening. It should analyse and evaluate such renewal for sharing with churches, congregations, communities, movements and groups".

The Central Committee approved three staff posts:

- Director responsible for over-all programme and for relationships with churches, communities, movements and groups, and for concerns of the laity;
- One staff with responsibilities in the area of renewal, worship and spirituality;
- One staff responsible for developing and broadening ecumenical awareness at the congregational level.

While a part of the Programme Unit on Education and Renewal, the sub-unit is to relate to the Faith and Order Secretariat on the theme of conciliar fellowship and to the Commission on World Mission and Evangelism in its emphasis on renewal in mission and on confessing communities.

EPS

STUDY ON "WOMEN AND MEN IN THE CHURCH"

The Central Committee endorses the recommendation of the Review Committee that the study on the Community of Women and Men in the Church should proceed as a joint venture of Faith and Order and the Sub-unit on Women. We see this as a project combining theological study with reflection at various levels of church life, leading to change.

a) The Committee recommends that a woman study secretary, who is theologically competent, aware of sociological issues, an advocate of women's concerns and able to work with people of various cultures be appointed by Faith and Order with the concurrence of the Sub-unit on Women, exclusively for work on this project. She will be accountable to the Project Committee (see below). The appointment should be funded preferably by designated funds, or failing that, by secondment.

b) The Committee recommends that a Project Committee consisting of the Study Secretary, the Director of Faith and Order, the Director of the Sub-unit on Women, and two or three persons each from the Faith and Order Commission and the Working Group for the Sub-unit on Women be appointed to develop and direct the whole project, including a consultation in 1978. The Moderator of the Project Committee should be appointed by the Officers of the WCC. The Project Committee,

taking note of the recommendations of the two core groups, should decide the job description of the Study Secretary, draw up guidelines for the project, including the methodology and the issues to be studied, review progress, reporting to both sub-units and to the Central Committee, and control the project budget. The Faith and Order Commission and the Working Group for the sub-unit on Women should each exercise an advisory role to the Project Committee.

c) The Committee also envisages a staff task force to relate the project to other units, sub-units, and other bodies.

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# photo oikoumene

On the Sunday midway through the Central Committee delegates fanned out into the Geneva churches, preaching and worshipping with local congregations. (1850) Anglicans concelebrating at Holy Trinity included (right to left): Archbishop Edward Scott (Canada), Bishop Gurbachan Singh (India), Bishop J.L. Bryce (Fiji), Rev. Wilson Lwanga-Mugerwa (Uganda) and Rev. John Arnold (UK). (1853) Rev. Lukombo-Kitete Ntontolo (Zaire) preaching at parish of Aire; (1859) Mrs. Fernanda Comba (Italy) in Plainpalais.

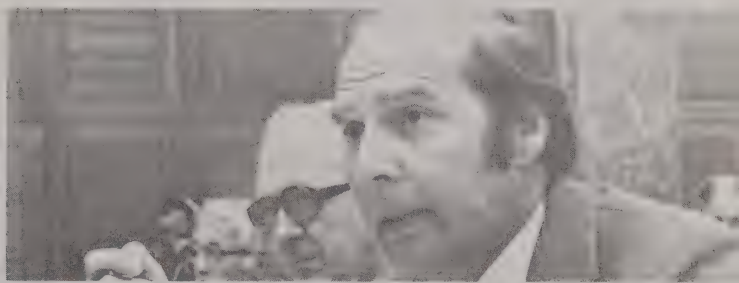
(1851) Committee on the General Secretariat was presided over by Ms. Jean Woolfolk (USA); (1858) Ms. Mercy Oduyoye (Nigeria) chaired Committee on the Programme Unit Faith and Witness.

(1852) Prof. Gerhard Grohs (Federal Republic of Germany) contributes to plenary discussion. (1854) Honorary President W.A. Visser 't Hooft, moving spirit in the formation of the WCC. (1855) General Secretary Philip A. Potter presenting report on human rights and religious liberty. (1856) Six WCC president (l. to r.): Dr. Cynthia Wedel, Metropolitan Nikodim, Dr. Visser 't Hooft, Mrs. Justice Annie Jiagge, Dr. T.B. Simatupang, Prof. José Miguez-Bonino, Archbishop Olof Sundby. (1857) Dr. Margrethe Brown (left) one of 20 advisers on sub-unit programmes, chats with American Central Committee members Jan Love and Barbara Thompson.

For three mornings the committee did Bible Study in small groups. (1860) One group was led by Mrs. Jean Zaru (second from right) of Ramallah, West Bank (1861) Mrs. Marie Momo Kingue (Cameroun) addresses the plenary. (1862) Dr. Shoki Coe, director of Theological Education Fund, with Mr. and Mrs. C.N. Fang (Malaysia) (1863) Archbishop Karekin Sarkissian of Armenian Apostolic Church led the all-important Review Committee which proposed programme priorities for the WCC. Photos by WCC.



1854

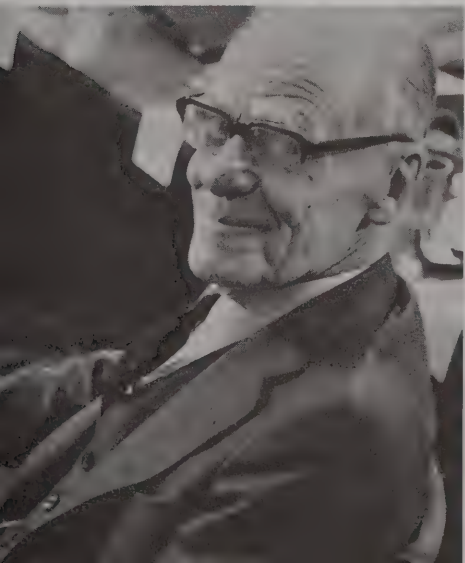


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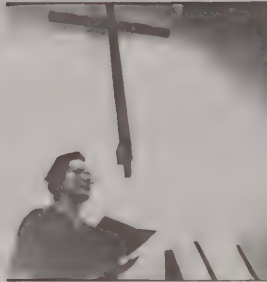
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## Ecumenical Press Service

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## NEW WCC STAFF ANNOUNCED

Geneva (EPS) - An African, an Asian and a Latin American have been appointed to the staff of the World Council of Churches.

Mr. Maxime Rafransoa, 41, a rural development expert working for the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) in Ghana, has been named secretary for West, Central and Southern Africa by the Commission on Inter-Church Aid, Refugee and World Service (CICARWS). He begins work on January 1. A native of Madagascar with training in both theology and sociology, Mr. Rafransoa has participated in consultations on lay training and development sponsored by the World Council and was a consultant to the Third Assembly of the All Africa Conference of Churches at Lusaka in 1974.

Dr. David A. Sobrepena, 43, a Presbyterian minister from the Philippines, will become secretary for relationships for churches in mission effective January 1. He fills a vacancy in the Commission on World Mission and Evangelism left by the departure of the Rev. Sang Jung Park to study at Emory University in Atlanta, Georgia (USA). Since 1973 Dr. Sobrepena has been a chaplain at the University of the Philippines. He holds graduate degrees from Hartford Seminary Foundation in Connecticut and the University of Michigan, both in USA.

Dr. Lysaneas Maciel, a Brazilian human rights advocate who was removed from Parliament and deprived of his political rights by President Ernesto Geisel, reached Geneva with his family on August 27. He will serve as consultant in Latin American affairs for CICARWS. Before his removal from Parliament Dr. Maciel had chaired that body's Committee on Mines and Energy. He has been a member of the CICARWS Commission since 1971 and was appointed one of the Vice-Moderators by the Central Committee.

As of January 1, the Rev. Gerson A. Meyer becomes Latin America secretary of CICARWS. The Brazilian clergyman has been secretary for Christian Education in the Programme Unit on Education and Renewal since 1969. Since August 1, Mr. Thomas Wieser has been serving as interim director of the Centre de Rencontre at Cartigny, a retreat centre of the Geneva churches. However, he continues half-time as secretary for studies of the Commission on World Mission and Evangelism.

Dr. Robert K. Welsh, 30, leaves the Faith and Order Secretariat on October 15 to become associate ecumenical officer of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ). Since 1974 he has been keeping in touch with some 35 committees negotiating church union and worked on unity materials for the Fifth Assembly in Nairobi.

EPS

DR. POTTER ASKS AMNESTY  
FOR CONVICTED KOREANS

Geneva (EPS) - Dr. Philip A. Potter, general secretary of the World Council of Churches, has sent a cable to Korea's President Park Chung Hee urging him to grant general amnesty to the 18 government critics sentenced to prison for instigating a popular uprising. The defendants had denied the charge.

On 28 August a court in Seoul handed down eight-year prison terms for Yun Po-Sun, 78, former president of Korea; Kim Dae Jung, leader of the political opposition; the Rev. Moon Ik-Hwan, former professor at Hankuk Theological Seminary and Ham Suk Hun, a prominent Quaker.

Five-year sentences were given to Chyung Il-Hyung, a former foreign minister; Dr. Lee Tai Young, a prominent lawyer and women's liberation leader; Miss Lee Woo-Chung, chairperson of Korean Church Women United; the Rev. Stephen Moon, former professor at Hankuk and member of the Committee for the WCC's Programme Unit on Education & Renewal; and two other Protestant pastors: Dr. Lee Woon Young and Rev. Yun Ban Wung. Shorter terms were given to Professors Huh Nam Dong of Yantze University and Dr. Ahn Byoung Moo of Hankuk and Pastor Lee Hae Dong.

The cases have been appealed to a higher court.

The charges grew out of a manifesto the defendants issued at an ecumenical prayer service on March 1 calling on President Park to resign to pave the way for a return to full democracy.

The International Commission of Jurists based here also sent a protest to President Park saying the defendants had only spoken out against a lack of freedom in South Korea but had been found guilty and sentenced under "repressive laws of unequalled severity".

In denying the charge, Yun Po-Sun told the court: "I do not think we incriminated ourselves by releasing the declaration. It is all too natural that the people should ask their government to correct wrongs they see".

EPS

PASTOR'S DEATH SPOTLIGHTS  
RELIGIOUS LIBERTY IN EAST GERMANY

Geneva (EPS) - Following the death of the Rev. Oskar Bruesewitz, 47, after his attempted immolation, Dr. Philip A. Potter of the World Council of Churches wrote to East German church authorities voicing the hope that they would succeed in clarifying the situation of young Christians in this socialist state. He noted they had already been in conversation with state officials on various Church/State matters.

In his letter to leaders of the Protestant Church of Saxony, Dr. Potter expressed "profound distress" at the news of the pastor's death and "my sympathy and that of my colleagues to the Church authorities, the pastors of that area and the relatives of Pastor Bruesewitz".

(more)





The pastor had doused himself with gasoline and set himself on fire in the marketplace of Zeitz on 18 August. A sign at his side read: "The churches accuse communism of oppressing young people".

Parish authorities express complete surprise at this act. "We know that Pastor Bruesewitz understood himself through his service and even through unusual acts as a witness of God", they stated. "However, we cannot approve his action. In following Christ we must be ready to make sacrifices but not to end our lives voluntarily".

"We think that our duty lies in participating in society so that by our witness and example God's purposes may be realised in our world", they said. At the same time they felt they had no right to condemn a fellow-pastor.

Church authorities rejected all attempts to use the Zeitz event as a chance to propagandize against the East German Government.

The Evangelical Church in the Federal Republic of Germany has characterized Oskar Bruesewitz as "a pastor who devoted body and soul to witnessing to the Gospel in a socialist society". While his act of protest has to be taken seriously as "an act of a desperate man", it is not an accurate reflection of the Church/State situation in the German Democratic Republic, according to a spokesman for the EKD.

Claus-Jürgen Roepke, the church spokesman, added that the obstacles put in the way of young Christians and the limitations imposed on religious practice in the GDR have been the subject of several consultations between bishops and state officials at the time of synod meetings.

"A state which has signed the Helsinki Accords must be asked how far it intends to put into practice religious liberty and freedom of conscience as legitimate human rights", he said.

EPS

#### ANGLICANS URGED TO GRANT FULL RIGHTS TO WOMEN, LAITY

Sydney (EPS) - A national commission of the Anglican Church in Australia has called for removal of sex discrimination in the church's ministry. The move, to be debated at the General Synod next year, could lead finally to women being ordained as deacons, priests and bishops in the Anglican Church in Australia.

The Commission on Ministry was set up two years ago by the Primate of Australia, the Most Rev. Dr. Frank Woods. Only one member dissented from the recommendation on women in the priesthood.

The commission's report also advocated a radical change in the concept of ministry which, it said, might be essential if the church were to survive. It strongly attacked the idea that only ordained clergy were the ministry of the church, and stressed that every Christian, whether ordained or lay, was a minister.

The principle that only clergy were ministers arose during the Dark Ages, when the priest was often the only literate man in his congregation, said the commission. But the idea of 'every Christian a minister' operated in the early Christian Church.

"All over the world, the church has been handicapped by having all the spiritual ministry concentrated in the hands of one man". Ideally, said the report, the words "clergy" and "laity" should be abolished, for they implied that the laity was

METHODIST WOMEN SHOW SOLIDARITY  
WITH IRISH PEACE MOVEMENT

Dublin (EPS) - Women around the world have been asked to support the courageous women of Ireland, Protestant and Roman Catholic, who have launched a series of demonstrations on behalf of peace. The plea was made by 300 women from 60 countries who were attending the World Federation of Methodist Women here August 19-23. They took part in a prayer vigil for peace in Northern Ireland on the same day thousands of other women were demonstrating in Belfast.

The movement began as a memorial to three small children from one Belfast family killed on August 11. It soon developed into massive demonstrations held on three separate Saturdays under the leadership of Catholic housewife Betty Williams. On August 28 police estimated 30,000 people assembled in Belfast and nearly 40,000 in Dublin with smaller crowds elsewhere. Catholics who crossed over the so-called peace line in Belfast to attend the meeting in the Protestant Shankill Road district were greeted by the chiming of Protestant church bells.

During their five-day meeting the Methodist women voted to cooperate with the World Council of Churches in a study on the Community of Women and Men in the Church, and to ensure an effective Christian presence at the 1980 UN Consultation on Women.

After hearing an ecumenical panel chaired by Ms. Brigalia Bam, director of the WCC's Sub-unit on Women, they agreed to stimulate member groups wherever possible "to think and work ecumenically at all levels".

Major time was devoted to discussing how to make the most effective use of woman power for the liberation of all peoples. They invited women in all parts of the world to join in a covenant to work towards the elimination of hunger and its root causes, to deal with poverty and economic problems in their own countries in such a way as to help all people of the world.

The covenant includes the practice of good stewardship of available natural and financial resources and a pledge "to work with my church and community to raise the level of awareness of global human needs and to participate in direct action programmes".

Participants at the meeting urged local areas and units to develop political education programmes which will help women to understand local, national and international issues. "We must free ourselves from the shackles of tradition and claim the power that is our divine right", they declared. Lay training programmes were seen as one way to equip women to play their rightful role in the power structure of the Church.

Dr. Dorothy Height, president of the National Council of Negro Women (USA) paved the way for the covenant with a speech on "Women and the Use of Power". Recalling her experience in the civil rights movement, she said: "It has taken a while for women who had pioneered in changing interpersonal relationships to accept and learn that thousands died in the civil rights movement to help bring change in the power relations of white and coloured citizens". The goal of human development, she said, is to learn to use different kinds of power and to be aware of "who we are and what we are doing as we use power in a given situation".

Earlier Dr. Nelle Morton, a US theologian and educator, had urged women to "overturn" the current elitist and patriarchal patterns of education and politics and replace them with a system which would include all equally. She called for a new education that would "claim openly to have both a political and spiritual dimension".

Mrs. Priscilla Peters, principal of the Lucie Harrison Girls School in Lahore, Pakistan, spoke on learning to live with people who are different from oneself. "We must not only tolerate the differences but in Christian love accept differences among people because they too are created by God. As church women, we must endeavour to seek channels to bring God's love to all. Only by learning to live together do we really live", she said.

The meeting ended with installation of the following officers: President -- Mrs. Elizabeth Kissack of the Isle of Man; Vice President -- Mrs. Esther Sarr, Banjul, The Gambia; Treasurer -- Miss Bernice Haver, Oslo, Norway; and Secretary -- Mrs. Willa Mae Rice, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania (USA).

EPS

#### FOOD, MEDICINE SHORTAGES IN VIETNAM MET WITH SHIPMENTS

Geneva (EPS) - Some \$200,000 worth of medicines for the treatment of tuberculosis, leprosy and venereal diseases have been shipped to Ho Chi Minh City, according to the Commission on Inter-Church Aid, Refugee and World Service (CICARWS). The shipment was made possible by the financial support of Danish Church Aid, Christian Aid in the United Kingdom, the Australian Council of Churches, the ADB organization in the Netherlands, and balances from an earlier Indochina emergency appeal.

To meet food needs, CICARWS had already made available \$100,000 for the purchase of rice through the UN High Commissioner for Refugees. HEKS, the Swiss churches' international relief agency, is supporting three different projects in the areas of artisan cooperatives, fisheries and urban work in Ho Chi Minh City. Church World Service, in cooperation with Lutheran World Relief and the Mennonite Central Committee, has transferred \$100,000 for the purchase of rice. Brot für die Welt is planning to provide 2,000 tons of wheat flour with the help of the government of the Federal Republic of Germany. Negotiations are under way with Vietnamese authorities to facilitate this shipment.

EPS

#### NZ CHURCHES JOIN PROTEST AGAINST US NUCLEAR FLEET'S VISIT

Auckland, N.Z. (EPS) - A so-called "peace squadron" of 60 ships is being assembled by a theologian to block harbour entrances and keep nuclear powered American warships from dropping anchor here.

Ever since Prime Minister Robert Muldoon announced last June that the New Zealand Government had agreed to the visits, protest movements organized by labour unions have spread. The sea-going demonstration, however, is the idea of Dr. George Armstrong of St. John's Theological College in Auckland.

With the National Council of Churches in support of Dr. Armstrong's protest movement, the Government is seeking to avoid a confrontation and is reported to be considering alternate ports for the American visits.

EPS

CHURCH'S ROLE IN MODERN STATE  
ASSESSED BY WCC CONSULTATION

Geneva (EPS) - Every church or Christian group, as well as non-Christian organizations, has the right, in every political context, to ask the State for freedom to determine its own doctrine and ethics. It also has the right to make these known and act on them even when they may be critical of the state.

This was a key point in a memorandum drawn up by 50 persons from 25 countries who attended a consultation on Church/State relations in today's world convened jointly by the Sub-Unit on Faith and Order and the Ecumenical Institute of the World Council of Churches. Theologians, political scientists, ethicists, lawyers and church administrators met from 19 to 24 August at Chateau de Bossey near here.

The memorandum they drew up also stresses the churches' need for freedom to regulate their own life and to raise their own finances without interference from political power. Also mentioned was the freedom to seek representation in ecumenical bodies and to enter into close relationships with churches in other areas.

The Church must claim these liberties, the consultation argued, in order to work for the improvement of human rights in general. Religious freedom must not be used for egotistical reasons, but must enable the churches to act as interpreter of, and advocate for, the needs and welfare of all human beings. The universal fellowship of the Church calls for active assistance to those churches forced to suffer from restrictions by the state, it said.

In an introductory speech Dr. Lukas Vischer, director of the Faith and Order Secretariat, underlined the great complexity and urgency of this question.

"The growing ecumenical fellowship provokes the churches to reappraise their relations to their respective states", he said. "In the same manner the profound changes in the nature of modern states call the churches to review their critical and supportive role vis-a-vis the State".

The variety and complexity of Church/State relationships was well illustrated by six "test cases", one from each continent. The situation in Romania was presented by Orthodox Bishop Antonie, Dr. Anwar Barkat spoke about the Church in Pakistan, Dr. Wolfgang Huber presented the situation in the Federal German Republic, Bishop Henry Okullu reported for East Africa, Prof. Enrique Dussel of Mexico talked about Latin America and Prof. Roger Shinn about the USA.

Historical, cultural and inherited doctrinal elements greatly influence relationships between churches and the State. But it became equally evident that the growth of international power structures and the rise of arbitrary use of power within many states puts a considerable strain on many churches.

EPS

VORSTER'S ACTIONS THREATEN ALL  
HUMANITY, LWF OPEN LETTER WARNS

Uppsala, Sweden (EPS) - In a strongly worded "open letter" the Lutheran World Federation's Executive Committee has warned South African Prime Minister Vorster that his actions "threaten all humanity" and urged anew a policy of peace, the liberation of Namibia and a "public order that assures even-handed justice and security" for all citizens.

The issue of unrest in South Africa dominated the agenda of the August 22-28 meeting of the LWF's policy-making body. Decision to publish the open letter was taken after reports were heard from LWF member churches in southern Africa. It was the strongest such statement to be issued by the Federation and charged the Vorster government with "institutional violence" which has "systematically involved bannings imprisonment, torture and wanton cruelty".

The Executive Committee also voted to establish a special office for southern Africa concerns to be funded with up to \$100,000 for the next two years.

Regretting that "our previous approaches have failed to persuade you to move toward an effective solution of the various difficulties", the open letter urged that a "prompt correction of injustice may yet deter a wave of violence which will engulf, at a minimum, all peoples who live in the areas so involved".

In his report LWF President Mikko Juva said member churches need the LWF to further their ecumenical obligation to attack the problems of the world and to help the churches grow in "common faith".

The problems of the world are so immense "that no single church could possibly understand them fully, much less respond to them", said the Finnish church leader who is chancellor of the University of Helsinki. "It is unlikely that in the coming decades the world will move towards easier times. Underdevelopment, hunger, pollution, social turmoil, injustice and exploitation are a concern of all of us if we confess to be disciples of Christ".

Referring to next year's LWF world assembly, to convene in Tanzania, President Juva said, "It would be foolish to nourish big hopes that our first African assembly would solve the problems of that continent, much less the world". But "European and American prejudices" have been allowed to "dominate our decision-making processes long enough" he said. By having the assembly in Africa, he stated, "we are truly moving -- if only one step -- towards a more universal and global federation".

Christians from "developed industrial countries particularly have every reason to face Africa with an open and humble mind", he concluded, "in order that we might learn from the fresh, expanding, deeply human and devout Christianity of Africa".

In other action, the Executive Committee voted to accept into membership the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Papua New Guinea, the Kinki Evangelical Lutheran Church in Japan, and the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Southern Africa.

EPS

THEOLOGY SPURS LIVELY DEBATES  
AT CONGRESS OF ORTHODOX SCHOOLS

Athens (EPS) - More than 100 Orthodox theologians met from 19 to 29 August in the Second Congress of Orthodox Theological Schools held at the Inter-Orthodox Centre in the Penteli Monastery near here. The first congress took place in 1936.

Representatives had been sent by theological schools in Greece, Constantinople, Bulgaria, USSR, Romania, Yugoslavia, France and the USA. Participants also included a number of well-known theological personalities and bishops, ecumenical observers and many local visitors.

The Congress was organized by the Theological Faculties of Athens and Thessaloniki Universities with the cooperation of the Holy Synod of the Orthodox Church of Greece. The main theme of the Congress: "The Theology of the Church and its Application Today" was developed in three stages: (1) Theology as expression of the life and consciousness of the Church; (2) Theology as expression of the presence of the Church in the world; (3) Theology in the renewal of the Church. Topics for the 18 main papers presented during the Congress included the following: Communal spirit and conciliarity, witness to the dynamics of salvation, mission and pastoral care, catholicity and nationalism, the ecumenical dimension of Orthodoxy.

Discussions took place in working groups, as well as in plenary. They revealed a wide diversity of opinions within present-day Orthodoxy as to the purpose and method of doing theology. Much attention was given to the relationship between theology and the praxis of the Church in light of the variety of historical and cultural conditions. Lively debates developed on issues like the understanding of mission, the place of the Church in the world, clarification of the canonical and theological questions related to the Orthodox diaspora and the implications of the ecumenical movement for Orthodox theology and the various local churches.

In concluding its work the Congress expressed its desire that a next meeting be held in the near future in order to continue and deepen the contacts and collaboration between different theological schools.

EPS

SACC CALLS FOR INVESTMENT PROBE,  
BACKS LIBERATION GROUPS IN NAMIBIA

Hammanskraal, South Africa (EPS) - Delegates to the recent National Conference of the South African Council of Churches (SACC) asked the council to undertake "an urgent and careful study of the issue of investment and disinvestment in South Africa" in cooperation with its member churches and organizations. Purpose of the study would be to see which policy would open "better opportunities for the development of the underprivileged sector of our population".

The investment issue was raised by SACC general secretary John Rees, who said those who argued that investment promoted reform "could point to very little having been achieved in this direction". Companies investing in South Africa "wittingly or unwittingly have been the greatest supporters of the institutionalisation of the apartheid ideology", said Mr. Rees. They have invested in border industry and at places pre-determined for them where cheap labour was available.

(more)

He warned that continued investment along present lines where there is no adequate training of black personnel, no bargaining rights, no equal pay for equal work and no possibility for blacks to participate in the management processes "is an outright support of the apartheid system".

Mr. Rees in his director's report also had some words on the liberation of the churches. He said true liberation from structures would come only "when we begin to train black men to take over the key positions."

"Let the churches be bold enough to designate certain positions now, to train and then appoint suitably trained persons to them", he appealed. "Position and money are power in structures - come let us share them. We cannot call on others to do so unless we show the way."

In addition he called on black ministers "to stop pussy-footing around giving the answers their white superiors want to hear". He urged them to "tell it like it really is".

At the Hammanskraal meeting a majority of the black delegates decided to meet without their white counterparts. They said blacks had a unique existential experience which whites could never fully appreciate. This black caucus later resisted attempts to "water down" a motion including recognition of black organizations such as SASO, Black People's Convention and the South African Student Movement (SASM) as legitimate advocates of black aspirations. The group also opposed an attempt to amend a motion made by Dr. Lukas de Vries expressing "deep concern about the recent violent developments in Namibia" and supporting "all those Christians and movements involved in the struggle for a free and just Namibia". Thus the attempt to insert the word "peaceful" before the word "struggle" failed.

Elsewhere in South Africa the government has detained more than 200 leaders of the Black Consciousness movement including officials of the Black People's Convention, Black Parents' Association, SASO, SASM, Black Community Project, Black Women's Association and various church groups. This tactic failed to prevent a three-day work stoppage by Africans living in Soweto and outbursts of continuing unrest in black and coloured townships.

Among those arrested was the Rev. H.J. Hendrickse, a delegate to the WCC's Nairobi Assembly from the United Congregational Church of Southern Africa. Protesting his arrest, the United Congregational Church said it was not aware he had contravened any law. "If the Minister of Justice has reason to suspect that he has...charges should be brought against him in a competent court of law, failing which he should be released." The church contended that peace and order will be restored when the authorities are prepared to negotiate with the "chosen and acknowledged leaders of the black people. While those leaders are silenced by detention, the voice of the masses will not be heard or heeded, grievances will not be removed and bitter conflagration may continue".

Also arrested was the Rev. Allan Hendrickse, national chairman of the Coloured Labour Party and former chairman of the United Congregational Church.

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DR. POTTER ADDRESSES U.S. CHURCH  
DELEGATES ON CONFESSING CHRIST

St. Simons Island, Georgia (EPS) - The paradox of the ecumenical movement being taken more seriously by secular interests than by church people was described to North American church leaders here by the Rev. Dr. Philip A. Potter, general secretary of the World Council of Churches.

Dr. Potter, who directs a staff of 280 persons in Geneva, Switzerland, reported that despite intense criticism of the World Council by many business firms -- particularly multinational corporations -- he has cordial personal relations with some of their top executives. WCC units and member churches of the Council have been critical of the policies of business firms towards developing countries, charging that the effects of commercial operations often lower the price of raw materials, encourage racial discrimination and support oppressive governments.

"These corporate executives want to hear what we have to say", Dr. Potter told the U.S. Conference for the World Council of Churches meeting here. "It is a strange thing. When we are dealing with big, secular bodies they take our comments seriously as a valid expression of our faith.

"When we talk about these things with people in our member churches, so often they see it as only politics".

Dr. Potter spoke on "Confessing Christ Today", which was the title of a major statement on evangelism coming out of the WCC's Fifth Assembly in Nairobi last November. He underscored the document's insistence on "the whole gospel for the whole person and the whole world through the whole church".

Noting the deep implications of what appears to be a glib phrase, Dr. Potter said, "The crunch comes when we begin to apply our faith to specific issues which challenge vested interests. But there is no way to confess Christ today except by being faithful to the Gospel in combatting the ills of the world."

The U.S. Conference for the WCC consists of representatives of the member churches in the USA. A large portion of the 120 persons attending the St. Simons Island meeting had been delegates to the Nairobi Assembly.

The major agenda item was how to make the insights and pronouncements of that assembly significant in the parish life of churches across the nation. Among others addressing the conference was Dr. Cynthia Wedel, the North American representative on the WCC presidium.

EPS

SMALL U.S. CHURCH WITHDRAWS FROM W.C.C.

Plainfield, New Jersey (EPS) - The 5,247-member Seventh Day Baptist General Conference voted at its recent annual meeting at Houghton, New York, to withdraw from the World Council of Churches. The vote was 355 to 227. Several years ago this church withdrew from the National Council of Churches (USA) because it disagreed with that body's social action stands.

Organized in Rhode Island in 1671 this group is distinguished from other Baptists by their observance of Saturday as the Sabbath. It has 62 clergy and 73 places of worship. It had been a member of the World Council since the First Assembly in 1948.

MOSCOW PATRIARCHATE PRINTS  
RECORD NUMBER OF TESTAMENTS

Moscow (EPS) - The Moscow Patriarchate of the Russian Orthodox Church has printed 75,000 copies of a new, small-size edition of the New Testament. The text is from the Bible published by this same source in 1968.

The Bibles will be distributed through the Orthodox dioceses and parishes.

The new volume has several distinctive features. On the one hand, the text is set in one column giving a line-length ideal for reading. New paragraphs show the thematic division of the text, and the usual division into chapters and verses is given in such a way as not to distract the reader's attention from the basic content of the books.

This is the first Russian text to carry one of the most ancient thematic divisions: the pericopes or short passages in the liturgy as set forth by Deacon Ammonius of the Church of Alexandria (third century). They are indicated by numbers in the outer margin opposite the first verse of the pericope. Tables show the chronological order in which St. Paul's epistles were written, and historical maps and contemporary drawings are executed in the best iconographic tradition.

The volume was prepared by Archbishop Pitirim, head of the publishing department of the Moscow Patriarchate with the help of a group from the patriarchate's Journal and students from Moscow Theological Academy.

The Orthodox Hymnbook, designed as an aid to readers and choir singers, made its appearance in July. It contains prayers to be sung and read, the sequence of the hours and scores for canticles for the Sunday services. The music is scored for a four-part choir.

EPS

CONFISCATED BIBLES RETURNED  
TO TAIWAN BIBLE SOCIETY

Geneva (EPS) - Some 1,000 copies of the complete Bible in romanized Taiwanese have been returned to the Bible Society and are now on sale in Taiwan, Dr. C.M. Kao, general secretary of the Taiwan Presbyterian Church, reported on a recent visit to the World Alliance of Reformed Churches here. In addition, the government has given permission for the publication of a Bible with the romanized and the Chinese-character versions on facing pages. This new edition is now in preparation.

Last year the government confiscated the entire stock of Taiwanese Bibles as part of its long term policy of unifying the people of the island by stressing the use of Mandarin Chinese and limiting the use of dialects. So great was the world-wide protest that half of these stocks have now been returned. Dr. Kao spoke appreciatively of this development, viewing it as an attempt by the government to "adjust to church needs". He expressed the hope that one day there will be full freedom to publish and distribute the Scriptures in whatever languages are required by the people of Taiwan.

EPS

PARAGUAY COMMITTEE RECEIVES FIRST  
DONATIONS TO AID DETAINEES

Asuncion, Paraguay (EPS) - The Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in the United States and the German church relief agency "Bread for the World" have contributed \$5,000 and \$18,000 respectively to the National Committee of the Churches for Emergency Aid in Paraguay. These are the first contributions to the committee formed on July 1 to aid political detainees and their families.

Similar to the Committee for Cooperation for Peace in Chile, the churches' committee in Paraguay was created by Roman Catholic Bishop Juan Bockwinkel with the support of the Bishops' Conference, the Rev. Friedbert Höner of the German Lutheran Church and the Rev. Luis des Pilar of the Christian Church. A team of four programme secretaries and a coordinator assist them.

The committee will aid political prisoners (estimated at nearly 1,000), give economic and legal assistance to their families and establish a detailed list of all known cases of arbitrary arrest and detention as a prelude to taking legal action in their behalf.

It is estimated that the sum of \$35,000 will be needed to carry out the various programmes.

The committee has already completed records for over 400 prisoners, who are held chiefly in Asuncion and four other urban centres. However, there has been no news of 200 others since their arrest. Among the detainees are many heads of families (teachers, students, and peasants), as well as a large number of women, adolescents and clergy.

With the aid of full-time nurses and social workers plus held from many volunteers, the national committee hopes to get medical supplies, blankets and food to detainees whose health is seriously threatened by bad prison conditions. In the group are also 20 or so babies born in prison.

Before deciding what types of projects will be needed to create jobs and ensure a livelihood for families of the detainees, the committee is making an inventory of needs, which are all the greater in the absence of the breadwinner and in some cases several members of the same family.

EPS

WCC SEEKS SUPPORT FOR ARRESTED  
CHILEAN LAWYER'S RIGHTS

Geneva, 13 September (EPS) - Churches and church-related agencies with special interests in Latin American human rights issues are being alerted by the World Council of Churches to the rapidly deteriorating human rights situation in the southern cone of the continent. Singled out for urgent support is the case of Chilean attorney Hernan Montealegre who was arrested May 12, 1976, and has been detained since then without charges and without trial.

A letter from the WCC's desk for Human Rights Resources for Latin America, points out that intensive efforts of the Chilean church to obtain his release have thus far failed and it is now "deemed urgent and necessary to increase international pressure on the Chilean authorities in his behalf".

The churches are urged to lodge strong protests with the Chilean authorities through that country's diplomatic missions abroad and to press demands for his immediate release. Support of the churches in Chile is called for, commending them for their continued affirmation of Mr. Montealegre's rights and the right of the churches to carry on their ministries freely.

It is stressed that the Chilean lawyer's case is symbolic of deteriorating human rights in Chile and other Latin American countries. Churches are therefore asked to inform congregations and alert public opinion on the worsening of human rights violations in Latin America which must be stemmed with all means that can be rallied.

Mr. Montealegre is a distinguished lawyer and ex-seminarian. Now 38 years old and the father of two small children, he served in the Chilean diplomatic service from 1966 to 1973. He was the Chilean chargé d'affaires in London under the Christian Democratic Government and was later named consul at the Chilean Embassy in the United Kingdom. On returning to Chile in 1973, he devoted his time to the defense of political prisoners and became known as one of the most objective and effective attorneys in that field. Working at first with the now-dissolved Committee of Cooperation for Peace in Chile, he assumed the same task with its successor, the Vicariat of Solidarity of the Archbishopric of Santiago. On being arrested, he was first taken to the infamous "Cuatro Alamos" detention centre where he was kept incommunicado for 17 days by the Chilean secret police, the DINA. Despite intensive efforts by the Church in Chile and international bodies he is still detained, now at the "Tres Alamos" camp, without legal charges.

EPS

#### FEDERAL SEMINARY BUILDING PLANS APPROVED FOR EDENDALE SITE

Pietermaritzburg, South Africa (EPS) - Four colleges have agreed to pool their resources to build a modern seminary near here at an estimated cost of R2½ million. Plans have been approved for the new Federal Theological Seminary and construction is expected to start in the new year. It should take about 18 months to complete.

Final approval for the project is expected from the governing boards of the participating churches - Methodist, Anglican, Presbyterian and Congregationalist.

Federal Seminary has had two temporary homes since the expropriation of its property at Alice, Eastern Cape, by the government. Construction costs are to be met by the compensation being demanded from the government for the Alice property.

The new seminary, to accommodate 120 students, will consist of a single chapel for all to use, a multi-purpose hall, library, language laboratory, staff and student quarters. Domestic staff will be housed in the same type of accommodation as the students.

EPS

WORLD METHODISTS EMPHASIZE  
ECUMENISM, HUMAN RIGHTS

Dublin (EPS) - A strong ecumenical emphasis was evident at the World Methodist Council (WMC) meeting here last month. Convening the first time in five years, the body reaffirmed its intention "to cooperate fully with the global, regional and national agencies of the ecumenical movement". It also expressed a willingness to "advise with its member churches" engaged in negotiating church union.

At the same time there was considerable debate about the desirability of church union on a national level. Australian evangelist Alan Walker urged churches entering into union to retain strong links with their world confessional bodies and to carry their Methodist heritage into union. Bishop Herbert Bell Shaw of the African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church in the USA said he had taken an oath on his knees "to defend the Methodist Church" and was "content with Methodism".

After hearing a report from the joint commission between the WMC and the Roman Catholic Church, the council asked the officers to appoint a new commission to continue the conversations. Also approved were talks with Orthodox Churches.

The Roman Catholic conversations had noted a recovery of eucharistic faith and practice among Methodists and a renewed interest in the ministry of the Word among Catholics. "At no other time has the worshipping life of Methodists and Roman Catholics had so much in common" as a result of this convergence, the report stated. The talks have covered eucharist and ministry. Still to be discussed is the subject of authority.

The 13th World Methodist Council and Conference passed a number of resolutions. One on human rights urged the 61 member churches to "cooperate actively with the plans" of the World Council of Churches' Central Committee "to monitor globally denials of basic human rights". The WMC condemned the South Korean Government's sentences of up to eight years imprisonment for 18 church and political leaders. Another resolution asked member churches to organize study and reflection groups on the search for a just and participatory society. These should be ecumenical, it was said, taking advantage of resources offered by the World Council of Churches, SODEPAX and similar bodies.

Women expressed frustration at the secondary roles allotted to them in the conference and the continued use of "Brotherhood Day". In a final action the council voted "to implement the full participation of women at all levels of the WCC in planning, policy, programming and leadership participation". All WCC committees for the forthcoming quinquennium (1976 - 1981) must have a minimum of 20% women.

Instead of issuing a "message to world Methodism", the delegates received a conference summary that posed a series of challenges to them in the form of pointed questions. Four major emphases were included: participation, evangelism, ecumenism, and social concerns.

New secretary of the Geneva office of WMC is Mr. Frank Northam, retired finance officer of the World Council of Churches.

HUMAN FACTOR IN DEVELOPMENT  
STRESSED AT RURAL WORKSHOP

Ho, Ghana (EPS) - What Africa will look like in the year 2,000 depends very much on the rural development policies and programmes of African governments today, according to Dr. Egemba Igwe, director of the Rural and Agricultural Mission Desk of the World Council of Churches.

Addressing a workshop on rural mission held in the Volta Region of Ghana, he said the decay of rural life, coupled with urbanization and industrialization which was copying the patterns of the West, was causing a massive migration of young people to urban places in search of jobs that were not there.

Dr. Igwe stressed the need for a rural development that would engage the hand, the head and the heart of the total community for the material, intellectual and spiritual growth of all.

At the conclusion of the eight-day workshop the 40 participants from nine West African countries recommended the improvement of home conditions, local industries, recreational activities and preventive medicine. They also called for the development of spiritual and moral values.

Other resolutions urged the churches to recognize rural development projects and programmes as an expression of their vocation and prophetic mission. Rural communities should be enabled to fight against their exploitation and to mobilize their local resources. Women should be accorded places in decision-making bodies to give them opportunities to make their own contribution to rural development, and both men and women should be given an education that will liberate them to see each other's gifts and potentialities, the participants said.

A strong plea was made to the WCC, the All Africa Conference of Churches as a co-sponsor of the workshop and to the Roman Catholic Symposium of the Episcopal Conferences of Bishops in Africa and Madagascar to coordinate their rural activities and cooperate in given areas.

The workshop was opened by the Commissioner for the Volta Region, Lt. Col. G. Amevor, who welcomed the concern of the churches for development and described Ghana's "Operation Feed Yourself".

The participants visited a mobile fishing school in one of the villages and attended worship in the Evangelical Presbyterian Church where a youth rally brought together several thousand young people from Presbyterian churches throughout Ghana. At this service Dr. Igwe told the congregation of the World Council's and AACC's concern for rural areas and stressed the need for community action involving youth among others in solving the problem of poverty in rural areas.

EPS

PRAYERS FOR NAMIBIA

Windhoek, Namibia (EPS) - Seven churches in Namibia asked all Christians to observe Sunday, 26 September, as a special day of prayer for Namibia. Prayers for reconciliation, justice and peace were requested.

Signing the appeal were representatives of the following: United Evangelical Lutheran Church in South-West Africa, Roman Catholic Church in South-West Africa, Anglican Diocese of Damaraland, German Evangelical Lutheran, Methodist Church, Windhoek Congregational and Windhoek Baptist churches.

CHURCHES ACT TO CUT  
ZIMBABWE'S OIL SUPPLY

New York (EPS) - A concerted effort to stop the flow of oil to the white minority regime in Zimbabwe (Rhodesia) has been mounted by the Centre for Social Action of the United Church of Christ here. Church groups in the Netherlands, UK and France have been asked to approach oil companies in their countries.

The United Church of Christ (USA) initiated the action by filing a shareholder resolution with the Mobil Oil Company asking it to ensure that no Mobil products are supplied, directly or indirectly, to Zimbabwe. This includes a provision that no bulk sales are made to any buyer who does not prove that these products are not destined for resale or transfer to that country.

The UCC's Centre for Social Action charged on June 21 that Mobil's Southern Africa subsidiaries have played an important role in "circumventing economic sanctions against Rhodesia from 1966 to the present time".

While Rhodesian blacks, who make up 95% of the population, are engaged in an undeclared war with the Ian Smith regime to gain representative government, said the UCC, "Smith's strike force of planes, trucks and mobile weapons is carrying out search-and-destroy operations against whole districts". Petroleum products are indispensable to Smith's indiscriminate, genocidal war, the statement said.

Similar campaigns are expected to be launched with British Petroleum, Caltex, Royal Dutch Shell and Total, a French company. All continue to market oil in Rhodesia despite UN Resolution 253 evoking economic sanctions against the white-supremacy regime.

Mobil said its investigation had turned up no evidence of violation of the US Treasury's Rhodesian Sanctions regulations by Mobil Oil or any affiliates. However, it admitted that a Mobil team visiting South Africa had been unable to probe the product supply situation there due to the Official Secrets Act.

EPS

## ROLE OF NAMIBIAN CHURCHES ASSESSED

Swakopmund, Namibia (EPS) - Some 100 Namibian Christians of various denominations have called on the churches to denounce the legalised violence of the South African regime, commend the disobedience of unjust laws, and support genuine resistance movements that are working for a freer and more just Namibia.

This was one clause of a resolution adopted at the conclusion of a consultation sponsored by the Christian Academy in Southern Africa and the Christian Centre in South-West Africa (Namibia). Theme of the meeting was "The responsibility of the churches in the changing Namibian situation".

Another part of the resolution asked churches to encourage the creation of trade unions and to train leaders for them so the workers can play their rightful role in the economy of the country. The churches should also demand the recognition of such trade unions by government and business, it was stated.

To counteract government propaganda, the churches should increase their efforts to bring about unity between the different tribes and races, the consultation stated. "All church schools must now be opened to all races", it said. "New ventures or buildings should be undertaken by the churches acting together".

EPS

WALDENSIANS ACT ON POLITICAL  
ACTIVITY, VIOLENCE, UNION

Torre Pellice, Italy (EPS) - The right of Waldensian pastors to engage in political activity was affirmed by the Synod of the Waldensian Church when it met here recently. A motion to prevent such activity received only eight votes in favour, 124 against and 21 abstentions.

The action was stimulated by the activities of the Rev. Tullio Vinay, who campaigned for the Italian Senate as an independent on the Communist Party slate, and the Rev. Ginna Ciclona as a Communist candidate.

The affirmative motion passed by the synod said "...the word of God does not take the Church out of the world but offers freedom to work for the salvation of men and the solution of the problems of their society".

A synod resolution on violence called attention to the Lebanese tragedy "where the Palestinian people are not only being obliterated but in the name of Christianity". It asked the churches not to limit themselves to unfeeling denunciations of the facts but to join with church or political groups to block the "extermination of the Palestinian people".

During the synod great interest was expressed in the radio/TV programmes sponsored by the Italian Protestant Federation. Rumours had spread that the TV programme "Protestantisimo" would be allotted a new time of 4:30 in the afternoon.

Reporting the synod in the newspaper l'Unita of August 29, the Rev. Aldo Comba, president of the Protestant Federation, noted that if the new hour was accepted, the programme would have hardly any viewers.

"Protestants do not expect special treatment on TV", Mr. Comba wrote, "but they do insist on having sufficient time at an hour which would permit a real dialogue and confrontation with other spiritual streams of the country. Italian Protestants do not want to be considered a small ghetto of believers but as representatives of a culture and faith which is a living force in today's Europe and the world".

The Waldensians reconfirmed 1979 as the final date for merger with the Methodists. Unification of administration and pastoral bodies is proceeding.

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# Ecumenical Press Service

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ORTHODOX WOMEN'S CONSULTATION SEEKS  
NEW VOCATIONS, RELIGIOUS TRAINING

Agapia, Moldavia (EPS) - The first-ever meeting of Orthodox women from churches in 18 countries on four continents and the Middle East was convened here 11 to 17 September by the Sub-Unit on Women of the World Council of Churches. At the invitation of the Romanian Orthodox Church and Metropolitan Justin of Moldavia, the consultation took place at the 17th century Monastery of Agapia.

The 45 participants concluded that religious and higher theological education is important if women are to grow in their understanding of the Christian faith and Orthodox tradition and fulfil their responsibilities in Church, family and society.

In view of the significant role that women already play in the social services, education and the family, the consultation recommended churches and seminaries examine possible new vocations and educational training so that women could serve the emerging needs of the Church. Two possibilities mentioned were the reactivation of deaconesses' orders and monastic vocations particularly in the diaspora.

On the issue of women's ordination the group recommended special study of this subject to enable Orthodox women to clarify and interpret the Orthodox stand to persons in other churches, although they acknowledged that ordination is not an issue for Orthodox churches at the present time.

Viewing the family as a primary place in which people live in Christian community, participants called for cooperation between Church and family in education and witness.

Affirming that decision-making bodies which include lay people should represent "the whole Body of Christ", the consultation said women should be encouraged to take an active role in such bodies on the parish, diocesan, national and ecumenical levels.

The responsibility to witness to the faith in situations of tension in the modern world was stressed. Spiritual and material support for those suffering in the Middle East was specifically mentioned.

The Women's Sub-Unit called the consultation at the request of many Orthodox women eager to examine together "The Role of Orthodox Women in Church and Society". Responding to the WCC invitation were women from Bulgaria, Canada, Cyprus, Egypt, England, Finland, France, Greece, India, Kenya, Lebanon, Poland, Romania, Switzerland, Syria, Turkey, USA and USSR. Several of the 300 nuns from the Agapia community joined them.

Within their commitment to the Orthodox tradition, participants shared their experiences and reflected on their opportunities and responsibilities for contributing to the life of the entire Church. Two women led meditations on biblical passages referring to the witness of women.

Small groups discussed questions of education and vocations for women, the family in the life of the Church, women as witnesses in society and the participation of women in ecumenical life. One group suggested increased involvement of Orthodox women as delegates and staff of ecumenical organizations.

Members of the consultation experienced the rich liturgical and spiritual life of the Agapia community, one of the many active monasteries in Romania.

EPISCOPAL CHURCH APPROVES WOMEN'S  
ORDINATION, REVISED PRAYER BOOK

Minneapolis, Minnesota (EPS) - The 3-million-member Episcopal Church of the USA has voted to ordain women to the priesthood. At the general convention here the House of Bishops approved the action by a vote of 95-61. In the House of Delegates, clerical members voted 60-38 and lay members 64-37 for the proposal. The action becomes effective January 1.

The vote affects an estimated 200 women already ordained as deacons. Until now, only men could take the further step of ordination to the priesthood.

With regard to the 15 women irregularly ordained as priests before church law permitted it, the House of Bishops provided two ways for them to regularize their ministry - either conditional ordination or a "public act of completion" which would not require another "laying on of hands".

When the proposal for conditional ordination requiring additional instruction or other rites was rejected by the 15 women as being "punitive", the second alternative was made possible.

Anglican churches in Canada, Ireland and New Zealand have approved the priesthood for women, but thus far only Hong Kong has ordained women.

Episcopalians will begin using the proposed Book of Common Prayer at services on November 28, the first Sunday in Advent, as the result of a second action. Final ratification of the prayer book must await the 1979 general convention.

After several efforts to restore the "filioque" clause in the Nicene Creed, a conference committee was empowered to make a final decision and it left the words in. The clause describes the Holy Spirit as proceeding from "the Father and the Son". Originally it had been left out of the modern-language version of the creed found in the Draft Proposed Book of Common Prayer.

A group of Episcopalians, known as the Fellowship of Concerned Laymen, opposed to both decisions by the general convention, stated it would hold a convention in early 1977 to decide what action to take. The group was said to include members of 15 organizations and publications.

EPS

US CHURCH GROUPS CONDEMN KILLING OF  
LETELIER; CALL FOR FEDERAL PROBE

Washington DC (EPS) - Members of the Latin American Strategy Committee, representing national religious agencies, have condemned the murder of former Chilean Foreign Minister Orlando Letelier and Ms Roni Karpen of the Institute for Policy Studies. Both were assassinated here by a car bomb on September 21. The committee demanded a thorough federal investigation and said this tragic incident is part of a spreading pattern of violence, torture and assassination in Chile, extending throughout Latin America, Europe and now into the USA.

United Methodist Bishop James Armstrong of South Dakota, in a statement of his own, said the assassinated Chilean exile "was an articulate rallying point for those opposed to military repression". As such he was an embarrassment not only to Chile but also to the US. Since the "CIA helped overthrow the constitutionally elected government" of which Mr Letelier was a part and the "FBI has violated the privacy and civil liberties of countless American citizens", Bishop Armstrong questioned whether they should be the bodies to investigate the murders. Those "uncovering the truth" about the murders should "represent the interest of the people of Chile and the US, not the military and corporate power blocs" of both countries, he urged.

EPS

CHURCHES URGED NOT TO "SIDESTEP"  
CONTROVERSIAL ASPECT OF WCC WORK

St Simons Island, Georgia (EPS) - Members of the US Conference for the World Council of Churches urged that "controversial" aspects of the WCC's work must not be sidestepped but should be faced squarely and interpreted "with biblical/theological undergirding". At the first plenary of the US Conference following the WCC's Fifth Assembly in Nairobi last December, delegates suggested that participation in future meetings by recipients of grants from the Special Fund of the Programme to Combat Racism could be a way of confronting such "controversial" work.

The three-day meeting discussed a plan for the formation of a North American Conference of the World Council, to include in addition to US churches, WCC member churches in Canada and the Caribbean. The desirability of greater pluralism at US Conference meetings, the need for increased efforts in the US to interpret ecumenical concerns and communicate WCC activities more effectively, and a widening of the ecumenical dialogue to include non-member churches were among recommendations made at the plenary.

William P. Thompson, president of the National Council of Churches and Stated Clerk of the United Presbyterian Church, called for a forum in which Christians from Third World countries, executives of large transnational corporations, government leaders, theologians and church administrators could discuss economic and political problems. He suggested that such a forum should at least at the outset not be world-wide but limited to North America since "virtually all of the problems that plague us world-wide are to be found in the Western hemisphere". Because planning and participation should include the Roman Catholic Church, Mr Thompson suggested that sponsorship should not include the National, Canadian or World Councils of Churches. He said the "potential for good in such discussions between Christians is without limit".

In an address to the US Conference and residents of the St Simons community, WCC General Secretary Philip Potter said the Council must respond to the crisis in the ecumenical movement by "reaffirming what we stand for and not toning down what we are doing".

He added that he felt the criticism of the council - that it is too involved with social issues rather than with spreading the Gospel - is not justified because the message of Christ has always been central to the Council's work.

"It is our inescapable duty as Christians to respond to people in need," he said. "All the things we do are expressions of the Gospel of Christ."

"I say to you there is no going back. We must take hold of where we are and continue to be involved in the many ways of confessing Christ in the world today," he said.

Part of the crisis in the World Council is financial, with programme and staff cuts expected globally because of the lack of funds. "The problem is that although churches in many parts of the world are giving more, those sums are buying fewer Swiss francs," said William Thompson. Dr Thompson, in reviewing the financial problems of the international organization, said that while giving from the United States to the World Council even exceeds the inflation in that country, dollars are just not buying enough Swiss francs to keep up the past programme level.

CHRISTIAN INSTITUTE REPORT GIVES  
DATA ON DETAINEES, TORTURE, DEATH

Johannesburg (EPS) - The Christian Institute for Southern Africa has published a 55-page report titled "South Africa - a police state?" containing the names of 15 people known to be detained under the security laws, as well as detailed information on the use of torture, on deaths of prisoners and on political trials.

The list of detainees includes clerics, journalists, union organizers, social workers, teachers and students.

Acknowledging that it is extremely difficult to prove alleged torture since detainees are usually held incommunicado, the report cites the case of Mr Mzimkhulu Gwentshe who brought a court case against the Minister of Police for alleged assaults by security police while in detention. Before the case could be decided, he was redetained.

Types of torture mentioned in court cases include: hanging prisoners from rafters, holding their heads under water in a toilet basin, standing blindfolded for five days and nights, electric shock treatment to sensitive areas and assaults with kicks and karate blows.

Of the 25 political detainees who died in prison in the last 14 years, three died in the last six months, 12 were said to have committed suicide, two fell from high windows, two slipped in prison showers, one fell downstairs, one died of thrombosis and four of natural causes.

In signing the report Dr Beyers Naude, the institute's director, said its purpose was "to give expression to Christ's command to heed the needs of those who are in prison and to enable the Christian community in South Africa in particular but also throughout the world to exercise their moral responsibility of pastoral and material care to the large number of detainees and families thus affected". Preventive detention can never resolve the current crisis, he said, the root cause of which has to be sought in inhuman and unjust racial policies.

"Only a fundamental political and social change, effected after full consultation and with utmost speed, could bring peace and justice to our land," he concluded.

EPS

SOUTH KOREAN PRISONER'S HEALTH  
PROMPTS PLEA FROM US COUNCIL

New York (EPS) - The National Council of Churches USA has asked Secretary of State Kissinger to intercede with South Korean President Park on behalf of political prisoner Kim Dae Jung. The council said it had received a cable stating that Kim is in grave physical condition. He is unable to walk, is eating little and is being denied "desperately needed medication".

The Rev. Eugene L. Stockwell, head of the Division of Overseas Ministries, said, "There is some suspicion that the Park regime is allowing Kim Dae Jung to die because that would be the easiest way to silence him. It is unconscionable for the Ford Administration to remain silent in the face of new massive evidence that the Republic of Korea is violating human rights, even as it receives increased US military aid."

Kim, a former opposition candidate for president, was arrested last March with 17 other Christian leaders for signing a "Declaration of National Democratic Salvation" which called for an end to martial law and the restoration of parliamentary government in Korea and demanded that Park step down. Kim was recently sentenced to eight years in prison.

## HISTORIC ARMENIAN CELEBRATION DRAWS ECUMENICAL THROUNG

Etchmiadzin, Soviet Armenia (EPS) - Three days of Armenian religious festivities came to a climax here with the blessing of the Holy Chrism (oil) by Catholicos Vazgen I, spiritual leader of the Armenian Apostolic Orthodox Church. The ceremony took place on Sunday September 26 in front of the cathedral in the presence of over 40,000 believers from all over the world. It was the largest church gathering seen in recent years in Soviet Armenia.

In a ceremony repeated once every seven years, the Catholicos, assisted by all the bishops of the 15 dioceses of the church in both East and West, blessed the chrism in the course of a four-hour long service. From here the oil will be sent out to all the parishes of the church around the world.

The blessing of the chrism continues a tradition dating from the time of Gregory the Illuminator who founded the Armenian Church in the fourth century. For Armenians the blessed oil represents an unbroken link with the origins of the church as well as with the Catholicos and the holy See of Etchmiadzin.

Four million members are scattered in dioceses in Soviet Armenia, Georgia, Azerbaidja as well as Western Europe, the Middle East and North and South America. Most of its members are descendants of the Armenians who fled from the Turkish massacres in 1916. They live now in diaspora but keep very strong ties with Etchmiadzin.

Numerous guests from inside the USSR and abroad attended this year's church festivities. Among them were Patriarch Pimen of the Russian Orthodox Church, Patriarch David of Georgia and Patriarch Mathews of the Syrian Church of India. Pope Paul was represented by Cardinal Jan Willebrands while the Archbishop of Canterbury sent Bishop Gerald Ellison of London.

The festivities also commemorated the 20th anniversary of the election of Catholicos Vazgen. Numerous church and state representatives expressed their good wishes and gratitude to the spiritual leader of the Armenian church for his active dedication to the well-being of Armenian believers.

EPS

## GDR CHURCHES SEEK CLARIFICATION OF CHURCH-STATE ISSUES

Zuessow, GDR (EPS) - The Federation of Evangelical Churches in the German Democratic Republic adjourned its synod meeting here (September 28) with a decision to seek full clarification of church-state relations, particularly in the field of education. A final synod statement referred to "tension" between the assurance of religious liberty on the one hand and the goal of forming a "communist personality" in the uniform socialist educational system on the other. The synod further expressed concern about the uneasiness caused by Pastor Oskar Bruesewitz's self-immolation and regretted that it had not been possible to print in the church press a letter from church leaders to congregations about the incident. The synod stressed the importance of factual information reaching congregations fast so that decisions and actions of church leadership can be better understood.

EPS

PLURAL AID CHANNELS UTILIZED  
BY CICARWS IN LEBANON

Geneva (EPS) - The Commission on Inter-Church Aid, Refugee and World Service (CICARWS) reports that the Middle East Council of Churches' relief committee's distribution system in Lebanon is beginning to "prove itself".

The committee's operations are reported to cover North and South Lebanon, Mount Lebanon and the Beqaa Valley. Aid has consisted of blankets, clothing, medicines, foodstuffs and cash.

The channels used have included Greek Orthodox, Greek Catholic, Roman Catholic, Maronite, Armenian and Syrian Orthodox, Evangelical and Muslim religious bodies. Of \$362,378 received as a result of the \$500,000 appeal issued by CICARWS, \$339,967 have been forwarded to Lebanon.

EPS

CICARWS LAUNCHES \$300,000 APPEAL  
FOR PAKISTAN FLOOD VICTIMS

Geneva (EPS) - The Commission on Inter-Church Aid, Refugee and World Service (CICARWS) has launched an initial appeal for \$300,000 to aid victims of the recent disastrous floods in Pakistan. The action came in conjunction with an appeal issued by the Punjab Inter-Aid Committee of Lahore, chaired by Bishop Inayat Masih with Prof. Dr Anwar M. Barkat, member of the WCC Central Committee, as coordinator.

The PIAC statement points out that most of Pakistan's population of 70 million have suffered from the flood. More than five million have been rendered homeless. Hundreds have lost their lives and those fortunate enough to survive have been reduced to abject misery, are threatened with disease and exposed to the elements without shelter. The PIAC appeal addressed to all Christian churches in Pakistan asked for contributions of money, food, clothes and shelter. The response has been gratifying.

In view of the magnitude of the situation the PIAC appeal was shared with Christian churches overseas. Relief is being administered by specially activated PIAC area committees.

EPS

US HOUSE CALLS FOR VINS' RELEASE

Washington DC (EPS) - The US House of Representatives passed by a vote of 381 to 2 a resolution calling for the release of the Rev. Georgi Vins, a Baptist minister serving a five-year sentence at hard labour in the Soviet Union. The resolution also urged the USSR to honour its constitutional commitment to religious freedom. The motion now goes to the US Senate.

The resolution, introduced by a fellow Baptist minister, Representative John Buchanon of Alabama, cited the case of Vins, arrested in 1966 while leading a demonstration for religious liberty. After serving a three-year sentence he was again arrested in 1974, the International Relations Committee said, "for continuing to do the work normally connected with pastoral duties...preaching, teaching, writing, evangelizing".

EPS

INDIAN SLUM VILLAGE TO RECEIVE  
UNITED PRESBYTERIAN GRANT

Casper, Wyoming (EPS) - The United Presbyterian Committee on the Self-Development of People this week granted \$32,000 to residents of the slum area of Kamanvess in the town of Miraj, India, to establish a family-oriented community centre. The centre will provide vocational training, health care, improved nutrition and institute family planning.

Kamanvess with its problems of extreme poverty, unemployment, health hazards and high illiteracy rate is typical of many areas, but the slum dwellers (45% Harajans, 35% Christians and 18% Muslim) have organized to solve their own problems. They have purchased the land for the community centre and will pay up to 10% of the cost of the building. The local church auxiliary for social action will provide food and milk for the nutrition programme and for those residents working to construct the building. Other sources of support include the Community Health Medical Centre, which will bear the expenses for the immunization and health care programme.

UPCUSA committee at the same time granted a total of \$236,000 to 13 self-development projects within the United States.

EPS

NCCUSA ASKED TO OPEN ALL  
MEETINGS TO WORKING PRESS

New York (EPS) - The Board of Managers of the National Council of Churches' Communication Commission is recommending that all meetings of the NCC, its units, committees and working groups be open to any member of the working press. The new "sunshine policy" is recommended for trial period of one year. Member communions not already practising this policy were urged to adopt it.

Exceptions may be made for portions of meetings at which salaries are negotiated, staff performance is reviewed, and property acquisition or sale is considered. Should a staff member so request, discussion of his/her performance or salary must also be open to the press.

The commission based its request on a 1972 NCC resolution which affirmed "the rights of the public to access to information" and a policy statement, adopted the same year, which declared that the "public welfare and their own integrity require that the communions in the NCC conduct their programming under the same standards of excellence and integrity they demand of secular communicators".

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# Ecumenical Press Service

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WCC CHALLENGES AMRO ETHICS ON  
SOUTH AFRICAN INVESTMENTS

Geneva (EPS) - In a continuing debate with the Amsterdam-Rotterdam Bank on the ethics of making loans to South Africa, the World Council of Churches has refuted the bank's latest claims that such investments are a form of practical opposition to apartheid. The WCC suggested that in view of the questionable stewardship of funds entrusted to the bank by the Dutch people the debate be continued by the churches and other groups in the Netherlands.

The issue between AMRO and the World Council arose from the 1974 Central Committee resolution calling for the cessation of bank loans to the South African Government and its agencies because they in fact bolster the apartheid policy. In implementing the resolution, the WCC with the support of member churches and action groups requested the six members of the European-American Banking Consortium (EABC) to stop making loans to the South African Government. The consortium is made up of the Deutsche Bank (W. Germany), the Société Générale (France), the Midland Bank (UK), the Amsterdam-Rotterdam Bank, NV (Netherlands), the Société Générale de Banque SA (Belgium) and the Creditanstalt-Bankverein (Austria).

AMRO first reacted to the resolution in a letter to the WCC last year, the arguments in which were refuted in a point by point rebuttal earlier this year by Dr Philip A. Potter, WCC general secretary. In the latest exchange of letters, AMRO on September 8 cited the Chief Minister of Gazankulu, a so-called "homeland" territory, as encouraging foreign investment in South Africa, pointed out that the bank and its affiliates have not granted credits to South Africa since the spring of 1973 other than in connection with Dutch export trade to that country, and charged that the WCC itself employed discriminatory means in pursuing its policy.

The WCC in its response to the bank, dated September 29, declared that the Chief Minister, Professor Ntsanwisi, "like others in his position is not considered by most black Africans as representing their true and legitimate interests". Dr Potter called attention to the fact that despite his call for more foreign investment, the chief minister at another point in the interview which the bank quoted expressed the "fear that there may be no more than five years left for South Africa to bring about change".

Dr Potter expressed surprise that earlier correspondence had not revealed the bank's policy instituted in 1973 of not granting credits to South Africa other than in connection with the economic relations between the Netherlands and that country, and noted that the bank reserved the right to abandon that policy at any time in the future. "We assume," Dr Potter said, "that you mean you have granted no new credits to South Africans since the spring of 1973, since we understand that EABC's contribution to the consortium loan for ESCOM (Electricity Supply Commission of South Africa) was in June 1972 extended until 1977." Dr Potter concluded from this that AMRO will continue to give direct financial support to the South African Government for almost another year.

The WCC executive rejected the charge that discriminatory means are employed to implement WCC policy. He said these means consist of "soliciting assurances that you will stop granting any further loans to the white minority Government of South Africa. We believe them to be the only means available to us when we find that a consortium such as EABC, of which you are a member, is providing guarantees and resources of this magnitude to the South African Government and its agencies."

(more)

The WCC continues to maintain, Dr Potter said, that "white South Africa has made itself a special case because it has chosen to make racial discrimination the basis of its whole existence including its economic relations with the rest of the world. We believe also that support of the kind you have provided through the EABC consortium loan is instrumental in giving respectability and support to the South African Government in its resolve to maintain its apartheid policies."

Dr Potter accused AMRO of using its power for political ends and taking shelter behind the Dutch Government and the conflicting views of others in an attempt to deny the role of ethical considerations in determining the bank's policy. Dr Potter concluded that the debate can be "usefully and appropriately continued with you only by the churches and other groups in the Netherlands, since the issue essentially concerns your stewardship of the funds entrusted to you by the Dutch people."

EPS

SWISS CHURCHES PROPOSE ROUND-TABLE  
CONFERENCE WITH AFRICAN CHURCHES

Bern (EPS) - The Swiss Church Federation will call a round-table conference with representatives of all Christian churches in South Africa to work out a plan for the solution of the conflict in that country, the synod of the federation agreed at its fall meeting here October 4. The date and place of the proposed conference remained undecided.

The proposal was submitted by Dr Peter Vogelsanger of Zürich, who had visited South Africa on the invitation of the government. He reported that the country is moving closer to civil war. It becomes increasingly evident that South Africa even more than the Middle East is endangering world peace, he said.

To support his advocacy of the involvement of the Swiss churches, Dr Vogelsanger said South Africa is 87.1 per cent Christian and churches of all persuasions are exerting an ever-greater influence on life and political movements. Secondly, the World Council of Churches has lost its acceptability there because of its action programmes against apartheid. To some extent, the Christian Institute and the South African Council of Churches are likewise meeting resistance. In the third place, Dr Vogelsanger said the Swiss have no world political goals and Swiss enterprises in South Africa have been cited by black leadership for their progressive employment policies as models of industrial and social development.

In other action, the synod agreed to join with the Roman Catholic Bishops Conference of Switzerland in establishing an office for human rights, which will assist victims of human rights violations to obtain legal redress, coordinate many other forms of assistance, and act as an information clearing house concerning cases of human rights violations. The synod also decided to increase the federation's contribution to the WCC by Sfr 10,000 to a total of \$115,000 annually. The Alliance of Reformed (Presbyterian) Churches will receive Sfr 45,000 for its work from the federation.

EPS

NYERERE HOPEFUL ABOUT RHODESIA,  
WELCOMES LWF ASSEMBLY IN 1977

Dar-es-Salaam, Tanzania (EPS) - President Julius Nyerere of Tanzania feels the situation in Rhodesia (Zimbabwe) is "not too gloomy". He expressed hope that Rhodesia would have majority rule "very soon" in conversations with a delegation of Lutheran World Federation officials who called on him in connection with plans for next year's LWF Assembly to be held at the University of Tanzania.

The Lutheran delegation included Dr Mikko Juva, LWF president, Dr Carl Mau, general secretary, and the Rev. Albertus Maasdorp, associate general secretary as well as the top officials of the Lutheran Church in Tanzania.

FOOD RESERVE, \$1 BILLION FUND  
PRESSED BY WORLD FOOD COUNCIL

Geneva (EPS) - An international food reserve is badly needed to avoid acute shortages due to crop failures or national disasters, to sustain a steady expansion in food production, and to reduce price fluctuations. Such a reserve is a major goal of the World Food Council, according to its assistant executive director, Mr Harry E. Walters.

Briefing Geneva-based representatives of nongovernmental organizations (NGOs) on the role of his council, Mr Walters said it is following up recommendations made by the 1974 Rome World Food Conference.

It has launched an international fund for agricultural development which is seeking \$1 billion by October 1. Oil-producing countries have been asked to supply half this sum and the developed countries the other half. The money will aid those countries worst hit by food shortages, malnutrition and slow rate of growth in food production.

The "radically new element" about the fund is that one-third of the votes are held by developed countries, one-third by OPEC countries and one-third by developing countries.

"Food is not a technical problem or a resource problem", said Mr Walters. "It's a political problem. If the governments of the world wanted solutions, they could achieve them through the various UN institutions, primarily the Food and Agriculture Organization. The World Food Council seeks to generate political support for such solutions."

A representative of the World Council of Churches welcomed Mr Walters' presentation, noting that the WCC had been active in efforts to solve the world food crisis.

EPS

ARGENTINE HUMAN RIGHTS GROUP  
DECRIES WAVE OF VIOLENCE

Buenos Aires, Argentina (EPS) - The Argentine Permanent Assembly for Human Rights has sent an open letter to President Jorge Videla expressing concern over the wave of violence sweeping that country.

The ecumenical group, founded in December 1975, includes people of varying political convictions. Among the letter's signatories, according to Latinamerica Press, were Roman Catholic Bishop Jaime de Nevares (Mendoza) and the Rev. José Míguez-Bonino, one of the presidents of the World Council of Churches.

The letter referred to the victims of violence, stating that "assassinations, disappearances, kidnappings, house searchings and assaults have become part of daily news and comment". Such violence "hinders most Argentines, a peaceable people, from devoting themselves tranquilly to work for the nation we all desire".

According to Latinamerica Press, nearly 600 persons, including nine clergymen, were killed in the first seven months 1976. At least 5,000 people have been arrested since the military began an all-out drive against guerrillas.

EPS

CHRISTIAN INSTITUTE SUPPORTS LIBERATION  
MOVEMENTS, PROTESTS MEMBERS' ARRESTS

Pietermaritzburg, South Africa (EPS) - In its strongest anti-apartheid statement yet, the Christian Institute of Southern Africa has come out in open support of black political movements, called for withholding recognition from the proposed state of Transkei, protested the detention without trial of many men, women and children including Christian Institute members, and expressed support for the oppressed in their struggle for peaceful social change through the voluntary withdrawal of their labour. It advocated a national convention in which all people are represented.

The Christian Institute's Board at a late September weekend meeting here directed attention to the "brutal para-military police violence" which has been used to break up peaceful demonstrations; the forcible removal by the government of the "authentic leaders of the majority of people" and to the "state of continual disturbance, with thousands detained, injured or killed" which conclusively proved that "apartheid has utterly failed".

In all this, the Board declared, the "white population appears to have submitted to government indoctrination", oblivious either of the "violent totalitarian and vicious nature of the regime they support" or of the strength and gravity of the black rejection, and following blindly a government which is out of touch with the reality of black feeling as demonstrated by the insistence of the Prime Minister that there is no crisis.

The Board believed "that a new stage of the struggle between apartheid and liberation has now been joined" and will continue "until the liberation of black and white South Africans is won". Free speech is judged treasonable, religious expression is dubbed communist, and innocent men and women smeared and condemned without trial, the Board said.

It called on the government "to give way to a national convention representative of all peoples of South Africa, including those detained or in exile," deplored the use of physical, institutional, and psychological violence, and expressed support for the goals of the black political movements (the African National Congress, the Pan African Congress, the South African Students Organization, the Black Peoples Convention and the South African Students Movement) "consonant with biblical values of justice, freedom and human responsibilities". The government is challenged to put detained persons on trial in open court.

Declaring that the forthcoming "independence" on October 26, 1976, of the Transkei is a "sham and a fraud, designed to perpetuate white domination over the country as a whole", the statement agreed with the criticism voiced by many black leaders of the other "homelands". It noted that paramount chief Matanzima and his government have "cynically disregarded the processes of democracy and justice". Special mention is made of the detention of the leadership of the opposition democratic party shortly before the pre-independence general election.

In condemning the continued detention without trial of hundreds of men, women and children, the Christian Institute protested in particular the detention of Christian Institute members, including the Transvaal Director Oshadi Phakathi and field worker Mashwabada Mayatula, and their minor children, as well as the Rev. V. Wessels and Vest Smith of the organization's Board of Management.

FOOD RESERVE, \$1 BILLION FUND  
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EPS

HELSINKI AGREEMENT STRESSED BY  
DELEGATION TO BALTIC STATES

Riga, USSR (EPS) - The absolute necessity for detente and the great importance of the Conference on Security and Cooperation were emphasized by hosts and guests during a visit to Estonia and Latvia by a delegation from the Lutheran Church of Finland in September. The five-member delegation, led by Archbishop Martti Simojoki, met leaders of church and state in both Soviet republics. The invitations for the visit had come from the archbishops of the Lutheran churches in Estonia and Latvia, Alfred Tooming and Janis Matulis.

In his speeches to the state officials in charge of church affairs in Estonia and Latvia, Archbishop Simojoki pointed out that increased contacts between people across state lines would be an absolute necessity from the point of view of the Helsinki agreement. The archbishop hoped that the Church of Finland will be able to receive visits by young ministers from the churches of Estonia and Latvia. He announced that the Church of Finland is prepared to accept scholarship applicants from these churches.

The delegation was informed in the course of the visit that Finns living in the Leningrad area had just been granted permission to establish a Finnish-language Lutheran congregation.

EPS

CALCUTTA-LIVERPOOL PROGRAMME  
LAUNCHED BY CHRISTIAN AID

Liverpool (EPS) - A nation-wide education programme on Calcutta, using a parallel study of Liverpool's unemployment and housing problems, was launched by Christian Aid in Liverpool October 7. It is the first campaign by a British overseas aid agency which uses a "two-city" concept to illustrate the problems caused by the world's growing urbanization.

For the first time also, Christian Aid is not appealing primarily for money but for an understanding of the relationship between the developing and developed world. Focus of the programme is urban renewal and everyday living in all large cities, explaining the similarities in their problems and calling for self-help and voluntary participation as expressed in the resolutions of the UN Habitat conference in Vancouver.

The programme was launched by the Bishop of Liverpool, the Rt Rev. David Sheppard, and the Rev. Dr Kenneth Slack, Director of Christian Aid. Materials for primary and secondary schools and for adults will be widely distributed for study. The programme will last until the spring of 1977 and lead up to Christian Aid Week in May.

EPS

NAMIBIAN CHURCH LEADERS VISIT UK

London (EPS) - Four leading churchmen from Namibia will visit Great Britain for three weeks from October 11 as guests of the British Council of Churches to share information about the struggle of the Namibian people for self-determination and explain the role of the churches in that struggle. The delegation consists of the Ven. Philip Shilongo, Archdeacon of Odibo (Anglican), Dr Johannes Lukas de Vries, president of the Evangelical Lutheran Church; Father Bernard Nordkamp (Roman Catholic) and the Rev. Matias Nghipandulua (Ovambo-Kavango Lutheran Church).

EPS

REFORMED CHURCHES ALLIANCE STUDIES  
MUTUAL RECOGNITION OF MINISTRIES

Herrnhut, East Germany (EPS) - Mutual recognition of ministries in the Reformed Church family was a major concern of the European Area Committee of the World Alliance of Reformed Churches which met for the first time in its history in the German Democratic Republic. Host to the meeting was the General Conference of Reformed Churches and Ministers in the GDR, which came into Alliance membership in 1972.

Meeting at the Moravian Conference Centre, near the Polish border, the 23 representatives present received two papers on the subject, prepared by the Rev. Fred Kaan of the Alliance's Geneva staff, and by Dr Amedeo Molnar of Prague.

In a resolution, they declared that "reservations about accepting ministers from other churches constitutes a serious anomaly within the Alliance, particularly in view of the (1973) Leuenberg Agreement on pulpit and altar fellowship among Lutheran, Reformed and United Churches".

The European Area Committee recommended that in "anomalous cases", where some member churches are still unable to recognize the ministries of others, the Alliance should offer to investigate the problems and interpret their seriousness.

Adopting some suggestions made in Mr Kaan's paper, the representatives recommended that member churches take more steps to invite persons from other churches to their assemblies; encourage the exchange of pastors, correspondence, documents, and publications, and jointly explore the role of doctrine in the church.

The committee declared that membership in the WARC "implies at least that the member churches recognize that they belong to the same family of Christians, sharing, among other things, a common heritage, a common history, a common style, a common approach to Christian doctrine".

At the same time, it noted that membership "does not imply that the Alliance is or claims to be a 'Super Church', nor that there is no room for doctrinal differences or different attitudes to various historic statements of the faith".

Although the committee stressed that "it is essential that all barriers to intercommunion among member churches be removed", it also acknowledged that "it is not unreasonable for a member church, before admitting as one of its ministers a minister of another member church, either explicitly or implicitly to require of him the same standards of academic and practical training and of doctrinal affirmation as it requires of its own ministers".

Of the 36 WARC member churches in Europe, 24 have indicated "a general recognition of ministries within the Alliance context", according to Mr Kaan. He reported that "a colloquium, interview or examination may be required in certain cases; proof of having reached an adequate educational level and of language proficiency are also mentioned".

EPS





# Ecumenical Press Service

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SACC VICE-PRESIDENT SALLY MOTLANA IS  
LATEST VICTIM OF DETENTION LAWS

Braamfontein, South Africa (EPS) - Mrs Sally Motlana, who is one of the presidents of the All Africa Conference of Churches and a vice-president of the South Africa Council of Churches, has become the latest victim of the detention-without-trial laws in South Africa. It is not yet known at this stage under which section of the detention laws she is being held. She was to have attended a meeting of the AACC in Nairobi on October 12.

Among the many positions she holds is that of national president of the African Housewives League and also executive member of the Black Women's Federation. Her husband, Dr Nthato Motlana, has been in detention since the early stages of the current unrest in South Africa. He is an executive member of the Black Parents Association.

Expressing shock at Mrs Motlana's detention, the South Africa Council of Churches has issued a statement which calls on the authorities to reconsider their policy of silencing "the very people to whom you should be talking". The statement reads:

"We wish to express our profound shock at the detention of Mrs Sally Motlana, who is a vice-president of the South Africa Council of Churches. Once again we register the strongest protest against the practice of detention without trial being carried out on an enormous scale throughout South Africa at present, Mrs Motlana being only one of its latest victims.

"The authorities who are enforcing this policy must be asked with the utmost seriousness whether it is conducive to the racial harmony which they claim to be seeking. The arrest of a person like Mrs Motlana - and we do not even know yet under which of the many detention-without-trial measures she is being held - will create a sense of anger and bitterness far beyond the ranks of the South Africa Council of Churches. Mrs Motlana is a churchwoman of high standing in the Anglican Church, she is acknowledged as a leading figure in the Soweto community, is national president of the African Housewives League, an executive member of the Black Women's Federation and she is also one of the vice-presidents of the All Africa Conference of Churches. She was in fact scheduled to leave for an important conference of this body on October 12 and we find ourselves with the heavy duty of having to inform the All Africa Conference of Churches that she will not be coming because she has been arrested.

"The effect of this move on opinion in black Africa is better imagined than described. Once again we can only appeal to our authorities: in God's name, think of what you are doing, and do not silence the very people to whom you should be talkin

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MINISTERS AMONG MARTYRS  
HONOURED IN MOZAMBIQUE

Maputo, Mozambique (EPS) - Avenues, streets, parks and squares in Maputo have been renamed by the government. Many now carry the names of martyrs of the liberation struggle. The principal avenue, formerly Avenida Pinheiro Chagas, is now Avenida Eduardo Mondlane. The former Avenida Alvares Cabral has become Avenida Zedequias Manganhela after the late president of the Presbyterian Church in Mozambique who was murdered in 1972 while in the notorious Machava Prison. The name of a Presbyterian evangelist now identifies the Avenida Lucas Elias Kumato, who also died a martyr's death in Machavo Prison.

JOINT WORKING GROUP: UNITY  
GOAL STILL FAR AWAY

Utrecht (EPS) - "The unity of the Church - the goal and the way" and "Common Witness" were main subjects of discussion when the Joint Working Group of the Roman Catholic Church and the World Council of Churches convened for its first post-Nairobi meeting in Utrecht 4-8 October. Two presentations - by Father Emmanuel Lanne, OSB, and Professor Hendrikus Berkhof of the University of Leiden, also president of the Netherlands Council of Churches - introduced the discussion.

Father Lanne analyzed Roman Catholic understanding of unity and the ways forward. Professor Berkhof based his analysis of the essential elements of Christian unity on New Testament scriptures. Discussions stressed already existing areas of understanding but noted certain ecclesiological issues requiring further study and clarification. The Faith and Order Commission of the WCC was asked to prepare a report for the Joint Working Group in 1978, summarizing the "present state of the discussion" and offering "orientation and guidance to the churches in their common search for unity".

The group also decided to go beyond the document on "Common Witness" published in 1970, to reflect on experiences gained and to promote further common action by Christians to witness to their common Lord and His redemptive acts in history.

The Joint Working Group is now in its eleventh year with a Holy See and WCC Central Committee mandate to coordinate cooperation and various joint programmes between the Roman Catholic Church and the WCC. The most significant of these is the work of SODEPAX (Committee on Society, Development and Peace), which was commended for its new programme entitled "Search for a new Society". New ecumenical initiatives in several countries may be generated by its study process, it was hoped, thereby contributing to the participation of Christians in the quest for a just, participatory society. A communication issued at the close of the meeting states: "The Unity of the Church continues to be a main preoccupation of the World Council of Churches and the Roman Catholic Church. The goal is still far away..." The meeting at Utrecht was chaired by the Rev. Miguez-Bonino, professor of theology at the United Theological College, Buenos Aires, and one of the six World Council presidents, and Bishop Torrella, vice-president of the Vatican Secretariat for Christian Unity. WCC general secretary Philip Potter also attended.

EPS

ISLAMIC COUNCIL ASKS RECOGNITION  
OF MUSLIM GROUPS IN EUROPE

London (EPS) - The Islamic Council for Europe has accepted a proposal for the establishment of Islamic centres in important cities and population centres in Western Europe. The plan now goes to the Islamic Conference (Motamar Islami) in Jiddah. The general secretary of European Islam, Embassy Counsellor Salim Azzam of Saudi Arabia, who was confirmed in his office for another four years, appealed to European governments to safeguard the rights of Muslim minorities by extending recognition to their associations. He said Muslims in Europe are committed to live "in peace and harmony" with other religious communions.

Meanwhile, the general secretary of the Islamic World Congress in Karachi, Dr Inamullah Khan, called attention to the importance of Christian-Muslim dialogue. "It is necessary and urgent that we build bridges of understanding between our religious communions," he warned, "for if believers do not move closer to each other, the power of the godless, immorality and atheism, become unrestrained and will overwhelm us."

EPS

INTERRELIGIOUS WORLD CONFERENCE FOR  
PEACE TO MEET IN MOSCOW NEXT JUNE

Moscow (EPS) - An international, interfaith preparatory committee decided here to convene a proposed "World Conference of Religious Workers for Lasting Peace, Disarmament and Just Relations Among Nations" in Moscow next June 6-10.

The three-day (September 28-30) preparatory meeting was chaired by Metropolitan Juvenaly of Tula and Belev and attended by 50 representatives of the Buddhist, Christian, Judaic, Muslim and Shintoist religions. Observers from the World Council of Churches and the Conference of European Churches were present.

Besides dealing with practical details for a world rally involving 500 participants of five major faiths from around the world, the committee reviewed the present state of world affairs, noted with satisfaction the positive outcome of the Helsinki Conference and stressed the importance of 31st UN General Assembly for disarmament and the strengthening of international peace.

Grave concern for the crisis in Lebanon was expressed, its political rather than religious character was underlined. Peace negotiations should safeguard the independence and territorial integrity of the country, participants said.

Deep sympathy was extended to the black people of South Africa in their fight against apartheid and for their political, economic and social rights. The aspirations of the people of Namibia and Zimbabwe were supported and the aggravating situation in South Korea caused by the repressive measures of the regime deplored. The committee acknowledged the importance of support by religious bodies for all peace efforts and agreed that cooperation should be given also to other than religious groups striving for peace.

A tentative draft outline for the world conference highlights such subjects as: foundations of interreligious cooperation in the service for peace, the relaxation of international tension, areas of conflict and confrontation, education and strategy for peace (i.e. women for peace in Northern Ireland), the role of the United Nations and its agencies in the quest for peace, nuclear weapons, ethical and psychological aspects of disarmament, religious approach to human personality, human rights, and problems of population, migration and the environment. It was agreed that for greater effectiveness the conference will deal with these subjects in working groups.

Elected to the presidium of the world conference were: Mufti Ziyautdin-khan ibn Ishan BABAKHAN, Chairman of the Muslim Board of Central Asia and Kazakhstan; His Holiness DAVID V, Catholicos-Patriarch of all Georgia, Archbishop of Mtsheta and Tbilisi; Ven. Bandido Hamba Lama GOMBOZHAV, head of the Mongolian Buddhists, president of the Asian Buddhist Peace Conference; Rev. Abdullah KANUN, general secretary of the Ulemas' League of Magrib; His Holiness Baselios Mar Thoma MATHEWS I, Catholicos of the East; His Holiness MAXIM, Patriarch of Bulgaria; His Beatitude NICHOLAS VI, Pope and Patriarch of Alexandria and all Africa; His Holiness PIMEN, Patriarch of Moscow and all Russia; His Excellency William R. TOLBERT, President of the Republic of Liberia; His Holiness VAZGEN I, Patriarch-Catholicos of all Armenians.

EPS

WEEK OF PRAYER FOR CHRISTIAN  
UNITY CHOOSES HOPE AS THEME

Geneva (EPS) - The 1977 Week of Prayer for Christian Unity will be observed, January 18-25, under the theme "Enduring together in hope" (Romans 5:1-5). Proposed by the Ecumenical Pastoral Group of Lebanon, the theme was accepted for distribution throughout the world by the mixed commission which is composed of representatives of the Catholic Church and the World Council of Churches.

The wording of the theme of the week may vary from country to country, however each formulation will be intended to express the conviction that Christian hope, grounded in the victory of Christ over sin, suffering, and death is especially relevant to the search for unity in the Christian Family.

Thus, in the United States, the theme is worded: "This hope does not disappoint us, because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit..." (Romans 5:5 RSV). In Canada the theme is worded: "Together in Hope".

The Letter to the Romans reads as follows: "Therefore, now that we have been justified through faith, let us continue in peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have been allowed to enter the sphere of God's grace, where we now stand. Let us exult in the hope of the divine splendour that is to be ours. More than this: we know that suffering trains us to endure, the endurance brings proof that we have stood the test, and this proof is the ground of hope. Such a hope is no mockery, because God's love has flooded our inmost heart through the Holy Spirit he has given us."

The mixed commission has prepared a presentation of the theme in which, after a brief exegesis of the Pauline text, there is consideration of the actual state of the quest for unity among Christians according to the Lord's own command and based on the hope which does not deceive. Progress made in the quest and difficulties encountered show the need for persevering in the work and prayer for unity. They also strengthen Christians in that perseverance.

Bible readings for a period of eight days are suggested, also prayer meetings for Christian unity as well as three schemes of liturgical worship. The first one, developed by the Lebanese ecumenical group, takes its inspirations from the Vespers celebrated in churches of the Byzantine tradition. All of these materials have been sent to national ecumenical commissions which, in collaboration with other Christian groups, are urged to adapt them to their own situations.

EPS

BUTHELEZI NAMED BISHOP OF NEW  
LUTHERAN CHURCH IN SOUTH AFRICA

Pietermaritzburg (EPS) - Dr Manas Buthelezi, general secretary of the newly formed Evangelical-Lutheran Church in Southern Africa (ELCSA), has been elected bishop of the central diocese of his church. The union in December 1975 of different churches in the ELCSA made a redistricting necessary, including the formation of a new diocese in the Johannesburg area that embraces also Soweto. Dr Buthelezi, a sharp critic of apartheid, ranks not only as one of the leading theologians of South Africa but also as one of the most articulate and outspoken. While serving as director of the Natal unit of the Christian Institute of Southern Africa, he was "banned" - a kind of house arrest - in late 1973 by the white minority government. The ban was lifted in May 1974, following widespread protests inside and outside South Africa.

EPS

TRACES OF APARTHEID IN WHITE CHURCHES  
MAKE CHURCH UNITY TALKS IRRELEVANT

by David Thomas

Johannesburg (EPS) - To talk of church unity at this stage of South-Africa's history may seem an exercise in irrelevance. We would deny that charge on two counts. Firstly, we believe that the church must continue to obey its Christian calling, no matter what the state of the world outside, and God today has clearly shown that he is calling the Church to transcend its old divisions, and to come together as a world-wide community. This challenge cannot be lightly laid aside, no matter what the other challenges facing both the Church and society as a whole.

Secondly the call to unity has a particular reference to South Africa, precisely because it is such a divided society. The divisions between its peoples are not only among the deepest to be found anywhere in the world, but they are entrenched in law. And time and again it is argued that those legal dividing lines are the only possible means of keeping peace in the society.

Churches have fought this apartheid ideology, arguing that integration, not separation, contains the key to South African problems. Those churches are to be found today in the membership of such bodies as the South African Council of Churches and the Christian Institute.

And yet, while these churches condemn apartheid in word, they very often condone it in deed. This is evident not only in apartheid structures within their own ranks, but in the barriers they have erected against each other.

Here, one may draw a parallel from South African history. Some years ago, a delegation from a certain church interviewed the prime minister, Mr John Vorster, on the wage gap between blacks and whites in South Africa. Before they started speaking Mr Vorster casually asked: "By the way, do black and white clergymen in your church receive the same salaries?" The church spokesman replied: "It's a difficult question, Mr Prime Minister, but we are addressing ourselves to it. Of course, you understand, white ministers usually have more education and training than do blacks. And then of course it is also true that if a black man were to receive the same salary as a white minister, it would make him the wealthiest man in his community, and so cut him off from them, and that you will agree, is not a good thing for a minister of the Gospel." As the spokesman continued to explain that the Church was nevertheless sensitive to the issue, Mr Vorster got up and opened his door, saying curtly, "Good day, you have nothing to say to me."

Churches in South Africa today are fond of talking about reconciliation. Thus, when it withdrew from the South African Council of Churches earlier this week, the Baptist Union of South Africa professed that it was still in favour reconciliation. But how can one talk about reconciliation, while at the same time withdrawing from another body because you believe you cannot agree with it?

To talk of reconciliation under those circumstances is to invite the world to show you the door because you have nothing to say to it in its divided state.

It must be noted with regret that those churches which are turning their backs on others, or at least showing a sudden hesitancy about entering into church union, are largely white dominated.

Whatever weighty theological and pragmatic reasons they put forward for their actions, the fact is that for black people in South Africa, for so long on the receiving end

(more)

of apartheid, the reluctance of white dominated churches to join, or be associated with, other churches with a black majority, will be seen as springing from basically apartheid-oriented motives.

Polarizations are increasing in South Africa. One hears with dismay of situations in church work in which there was previously racial contact and reconciliation, that that contact and reconciliation has broken down since the outburst of disturbances in Soweto in June this year.

South Africa needs every sign of hope that it can get, and the churches occupy a unique position to supply these signs of hope. If at this stage they remain blind to the situation and to the part they can play in it as models of reconciliation through church unity, it may be that God himself will show them the door, judging them as he has judged the church in Russia and China during this century.

EPS

#### CHAMBESY CONFERENCE SET TO PLAN PANORTHODOX COUNCIL

Geneva (EPS) - The preparatory conference for the first Panorthodox Council since 787 AD will be held at Chambesy near Geneva from 21-30 November. Decision of the date was reached at the Ecumenical Patriarchate in Constantinople on October 13.

Ecclesiastically termed the Presynodal Conference, the November meeting will be attended by representatives from 14 Orthodox churches from around the world to decide themes and working methods of the Grand Council of the Orthodox Churches, better known as the Panorthodox Council.

The themes to be chosen in November were considered since 1961 by the Ecumenical Patriarchate in close consultation with the different Orthodox churches. Possible subjects are the diaspora, lay participation in liturgy, revision of fasting rules, marriage obstacles, the date of Easter and ecumenical relations of Orthodoxy with other Christian bodies. Duration of the Grand Council will almost certainly be restricted to one single session. Long debates will not be provided for so that the Grand Council can concentrate on the essential issues which have become crucial to both Orthodox clergy and laity. The importance attached to the preparatory conference underlines the fact that the life of Orthodoxy is entering a decisive phase. High Orthodox circles expect the Grand Council to be held within the next few years.

Participating in the conference will be the Patriarchates and the autocephalous Orthodox churches of Constantinople, Alexandria, Antioch (Syria), Jerusalem, Moscow, Serbia, Rumania, Bulgaria, Georgia, Cyprus, Greece, Poland, Czechoslovakia, and Finland, who have around 150 million members. The Eastern orthodox churches, so-called pre-Chalcedonian, will not participate in the Presynodal Conference.

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CHRISTIAN-MUSLIM TALKS ACKNOWLEDGE NEED  
FOR DISPELLING MISTRUST OF DIALOGUES

Geneva (EPS) - Many Christians and Muslims still distrust the idea of dialogue between them. There is therefore a need for encouraging dialogue at all possible levels and an explicit statement of the aims of such dialogues should be made available to interested groups. These are the conclusions reached by 12 Christians and 12 Muslims who participated in a World Council of Churches dialogue planning meeting at Cartigny near Geneva, October 19-22.

An important enabling and supporting role should be played by the WCC, the Vatican, the Islamic Conference of Jeddah, the World Muslim League and the World Muslim Congress, the conference agreed. All of these international bodies were represented at the meeting. It was also urged the involvement of regional councils of churches and regional Islamic bodies such as the Islamic Council of Europe.

The conference found it "premature to define or even to attempt exhaustive descriptions of the wide variety of experiences and aspirations held by Christian and Muslim partners in dialogue" but held nevertheless that participation in dialogue itself offers one way of removing suspicions and building up a climate of understanding, friendliness and mutual trust."

Participants went on record in urging Christians and Muslims to achieve understanding of common and distinctive elements in each other's faith, history and civilization, to respect each other's integrity, to contribute to interreligious harmony and reconciliation, and to foster a mutually challenging enrichment of spirituality. Avoided should be unfair comparison or caricature, syncretism, covert attempts at proselytism, complacent static co-existence, defensive and hostile attitudes toward secular neighbours.

Among other recommendations offered: where both communities live side by side, schools should be on a locality rather than a denominational basis, teachers should be fully informed about both faiths, both groups should be consulting on text books for religious instruction.

How both faiths can constructively contribute toward social justice and development was exhaustively discussed. Out of this came a proposal for Christian Arabs to meet with their Muslim neighbours to define each other's role. Coupled to this was another which called for the holding of a conference perhaps in Geneva on the Lebanon; sponsorship might be sought from the three major Muslim bodies jointly with the WCC and the Vatican. Christians should also meet settled and migrant Muslims in Europe in order to discuss matters of mutual concern.

Consideration should also be given to sending joint delegations of Christians and Muslims to visit areas of Christian-Muslim tension "to analyze the experiences of these situations and to share hopes for reconciliation".

Finally, various theological issues were tabled for future dialogue: God's revelation to humankind; interreligious attitudes; faith, science, technology and the future of humanity; Christian mission and Islamic Da'wah.

EPS

SACC GENERAL SECRETARY RESIGNS,  
URGES CHOICE OF BLACK SUCCESSOR

Capetown (EPS) - John Rees, general secretary of the South African Council of Churches, has resigned the post after six years in office. In a statement announcing the step, the Methodist layman declared that a change in staff leadership would facilitate the new initiatives the SACC must undertake at this time. Without prejudice to the SACC's governing bodies, Mr Rees said the time is ripe to call a black person as his successor.

He characterized the SACC as "one of the few existing forums for black and white leaders to discuss openly questions regarding South Africa's future". The credibility of individual churches is threatened however when they pay lip service only across racial barriers to the idea of Christian unity without realizing it concretely, he added.

EPS

MATERIAL AID SOURCES TO BE LOCATED  
IN ASIA FOR ASIAN NEEDS

Hong Kong (EPS) - Protestant aid agencies throughout the world donated last year an estimated US\$20 million worth of material aid supplies of food, clothing, shelter and medicines to people in Asia hurt by natural or man-made disasters.

Although many Asian countries have well-developed industries producing such material aid equipment and supplies, and at a much cheaper cost, almost all last year's supplies were purchased from the developed countries of Europe and North America, said Helmut Reuschle, secretary for material aid in the Commission on Inter-Church Aid, Refugee and World Service of the World Council of Churches.

Mr Reuschle is currently in Hong Kong on an 18-month assignment to explore the procurement of material aid supplies from Asia for Asian and world-wide emergency needs. The procurement survey is a joint project of CICARWS and the development desk of the Christian Council of Asia.

"As early as 1969, concern was expressed that the availability of material resources from the Third World countries should be systematically studied," said Mr Reuschle. CICARWS recommended in 1975 "that the exploration of strengthening the procurement of material resources in the Third World areas be pursued in close cooperation with churches and church agencies there, with the intention of strengthening the economies of the Third World."

EPS

THIRD WORLD THEOLOGGIANS TO BE DRAWN  
INTO CHRISTIAN-JEWISH DIALOGUE

Geneva (EPS) - A World Council of Churches consultation on Christian-Jewish relations, meeting here October 19-21, has recommended that Third World students and theologians be drawn increasingly into the Christian-Jewish dialogue. This will at first take the form of arranging special meetings when African theologians pass through Geneva, but also helping plan seminars in Jerusalem for black African students and theologians, possibly with the cooperation of the WCC's Theological Education Fund.

The same opportunities will be held out later to Asian students and theologians. Study subjects discussed for this purpose at the consultation were Biblical archaeology, the Hebrew Bible and language, the New Testament with reference to its background in the Jewish tradition. Initiatives of Hebrew University and the Interfaith Committee in Jerusalem will be sought for these projects, while the WCC will assist in establishing essential contacts.

The consultation further discussed the concept of religious liberty, developments in the Middle East, and the situation in South Africa. Participants agreed that the Lebanon conflict has many social, political and economic implications. Discussions brought out the fact that groups in Israel have become critical regarding their country's trade relations with South Africa. Interrupting these relations would result in critical harm to Israel's economy, it was said, although the volume is believed to be much less than that of many independent African nations trading with South Africa.

The question of creation, its relation to science and technology, will be discussed at a meeting next February, which is to set out a study programme in cooperation with the WCC's Department on Church and Society. Christian participants for this consultation named were S.L. Bonting, a biochemist, H.O. Steck, a scholar of the Old Testament, and Christian Link, physicist, philosopher and exponent of systematic theology. Jewish participants will be David Weiss of Israel, Manfred Vogel, USA, and Rabbi Magonet, England. The group is to prepare a study document which may lead to a larger consultation.

The theme for a consultation planned for 1978 was tentatively identified as "The Concept of the Old Testament and the Hebrew Bible in our Respective Traditions".

EPS

BOSSEY INSTITUTE LAUNCHES  
25TH WINTER SEMESTER

Geneva (EPS) - The twenty-fifth winter semester of the Institute for Ecumenical Studies was inaugurated at Bossey near Geneva in the presence of many academic and religious leaders on October 14. With 53 students from 26 countries and seven confessions, the four-month study course will be the most representative in the last 25 years, said Professor John Mbiti, director of the institute. More than a third of the students are women, which not only a "first" for Bossey but demonstrates the increasing involvement of women in the ecumenical movement.

The theme of the semester is "Who do you say that I am?" (Mark 8:29). In October 451 AD at the Council of Chalcedon 600 bishops tried to define the person of Christ and the debate has been going on ever since, John Mbiti reminded the students, who will focus their attention on the divisions in the Church caused by this debate and how they may confess Christ today while deepening their ecumenical commitment.

EPS

## STUDY ON MISSIONARY STRUCTURE OF CONGREGATION FOLLOWED UP

Geneva (EPS) - Individuals and congregations have been invited to participate in a follow-up of the study on the "Missionary Structure of the Congregation" by the Commission on World Mission and Evangelism of the World Council of Churches. The new study on the "Life Style of Congregations in Mission" is to re-examine some of the unresolved issues of the study undertaken in the 1960s by the WCC and member churches and respond to the Fifth Assembly emphasis on evangelism and congregational life.

Dr Gerhard Hoffmann and Dr Thomas Wieser, in urging individuals and congregations to share their experiences in experiments of restructuring state that the end result hoped for will not just be a final report of academic interest, but the building up of a network of ecumenical co-workers who continue to share their experiences (of success and failure) to help one another to take "steps of concrete obedience in their different situations".

Those wishing to participate receive a questionnaire with explanatory comments designed to help in a process of study and self-examination by congregations. Some of the searching questions being asked: have the tensions of the 60s been neutralized? How far have missionary task forces been successful? Is there a relation between church growth and renewal? Has a non-Christian environment affected your church? Has "concrete missionary commitment" led to conflict with political, economic or ecclesiastical structures? Has the status and role of the professional pastor changed by the participation of lay people?

EPS

## INTERNATIONAL ECUMENICAL RESEARCH BODY PLANNED

Leuvenberg (EPS) - A long-range plan for the eventual formation of an International Society for Ecumenical Research was unveiled at a meeting of European ecumenical institutes at Leuvenberg near Basel, Switzerland, October 18-21.

The proposal provides for an initial membership to be European-based. Concrete suggestions are to be submitted to the next meeting of representatives of ecumenical institutes in Europe to be held two years from now.

Almost thirty ecumenical institutes in various countries of Europe were represented when the plan was first discussed here at the meeting to which the World Council of Churches and the Strasbourg Institute for Ecumenical Research had jointly issued invitations.

Papers presented were on "Current Problems of Ecumenical Methodology" and "The Relevance of the Bilateral and Multilateral Interconfessional Dialogues and their results for the Work of the Institutes". The meeting also examined the role of ecumenical institutes at the present stage of ecumenical work. The group agreed to establish closer working contacts between the institutes by such means as a newsletter to be issued at least annually in which information would be shared about current research projects, staff etc. The Interuniversity Institute for Missiology and Ecumenics in Utrecht, Netherlands, accepted responsibility for preparing the next meeting in collaboration with a number of other institutes. A first international consultation of directors of ecumenical institutes was held at Bossey, Switzerland, in 1970.

EPS

WCC URGED TO INCREASE NUMBER  
OF SCHOLARSHIPS FOR WOMEN

Geneva (EPS) - The number of World Council of Churches scholarships for women should be greatly increased, a meeting here of the programme's national correspondents from around the world has recommended. Participants also urged that means be found to involve family members of married students in the academic work or apprenticeship they undertake. These and other proposals now go to the WCC's Unit on Education and Renewal for decision.

A statistical study submitted to the conference showed that out of 1,400 candidates receiving scholarships since 1969 only 295 were women. This fact does not adequately reflect the WCC's concern to integrate women more into the life of the churches, the meeting held.

Efforts should be made to give more scholarships to refugees and to increase the WCC's information bank on current possibilities for study and ecumenical scholarship programmes across the world.

The increasing emphasis on leadership training is beginning to bear fruit, the meeting was told. The number of candidates for studies other than theological is rising. Also more scholarship applicants are planning to take studies in the Third World.

The Scholarship Programme of the WCC has processed 4,725 applicants in 30 years. It grants scholarships to people recommended by the churches who cannot obtain them anywhere else. Two kinds of scholarships are offered: academic training and training which links reflection to action "in an educative experience" (studies and practical work in a given concrete situation). The programme refuses to finance "simple ecumenical tourism" but insists on an ecumenical context, if possible international, intercultural and interconfessional as well, which enables each candidate to acquire the necessary experience in different situations to assume responsibility in his home church and country.

Financially the programme is supported by the WCC and various donor churches. For 1975/76 nearly £650,000 was given in scholarships.

EPS

TAIZE'S ROGER SCHUTZ LEAVES  
FOR INDIA, BANGLADESH

Frankfurt (EPS) - Roger Schutz, Prior of Taizé, has left from here for Calcutta to live for a while in the houses for the dying of Mother Teresa. While there, he will compose the "Second letter to the People of God". His first was issued at the time of the opening of the Youth Council at Taizé in 1974. The Prior is also scheduled to visit other parts of India and Bangladesh, returning to Paris where he will read the second letter on December 5 at Notre Dame Cathedral. A Taizé communiqué said Roger Schutz will confront the questions of "How can we live in solidarity with the poorest of the poor, particularly with those in the southern continents?" and "How can we express clearly that there is only one human family and that the north-south division increasingly tears it apart?" and "How can the people of God ferment community in the whole human family?"

EPS

PHOTO OIKOUMENEThe Church in the Armenian Soviet Republic

The Armenian Apostolic Church, which has about four million members, celebrated the septennial blessing of the "Sacred Oils" at the end of September in Etchmiadzin, Soviet Armenia.

(1879) More than 40,000 attended the service of consecration in front of the Cathedral of Etchmiadzin, which - built in 303 A.D. - is the world's oldest cathedral. (1880) Catholicos Vazgen I, patriarch of the church since 1955, conducted the colourful ceremony assisted by all the bishops of the Armenian church.

(1882) Many well-known religious personalities were at Etchmiadzin: (from left to right) Archbishop Shahe Adjamian (Jerusalem), Cardinal Jan Willebrands, President of the Vatican Secretariat for Christian Unity, Metropolitan Paulos Gregorios (India), Bishop Gerald Ellison (London), representing the Archbishop of Canterbury, (1883) Patriarch Matthews of the Mar Thoma Church (Malabar, India), and (1884) Catholicos Vazgen I welcoming Patriarch Pimen (r), head of the Russian Orthodox Church. (1881) The vast crowd followed the ceremony with intense emotion.

The Armenian Apostolic Church, since 1962 a member of the World Council of Churches consists of 15 dioceses. Five of these are in the Soviet republics of Armenia, Azerbaijan and Georgia. The others are in the Near East, Europe, Egypt as well as North and South America. The Church is an Oriental Orthodox church, known also as pre-Chalcedonian. (EPS 29/1976)

Photos J.-J. Bauswein, WCC.

Bossey: Encounter and Sharing

For nearly 30 years now, committed Christians young and not so young, have passed through Bossey, the Ecumenical Institute, run by the World Council of Churches near Geneva. More than 15,000 men and women from every continent and Christian tradition have shared their experiences, knowledge and hopes in ecumenical encounters. The seminars, courses and consultations have lasted from a few days to several weeks.

High point of the annual fare offered at Bossey is the winter semester of the Graduate School of Ecumenical Studies (see page ).

(1885) Ecumenical Institute, Bossey, (1886) Dr W.A. Visser 't Hooft welcomes the 53 students of the current winter semester, (1887) Worshipping together and (1888) individual meditation form the basis for reflection at Bossey, (1889-1890) Sharing ideas and discussions are the backbone of encounter, (1891) Moments of relaxation, (1892) Professor John Mbiti, director of the Ecumenical Institute.

Many distinguished guests and consultants have passed through Bossey.

(1893) Professor Karl Barth (first row at left), (1894) Professor Roger Garaudy, (1985) Pastor Martin Niemoeller (centre), (1896) Evangelist Billy Graham with the "blue angels" of Bossey.

Photos WCC.



1879



1880

# The Armenian Apostolic Church



1883



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**bossey: encounter and Sharing**



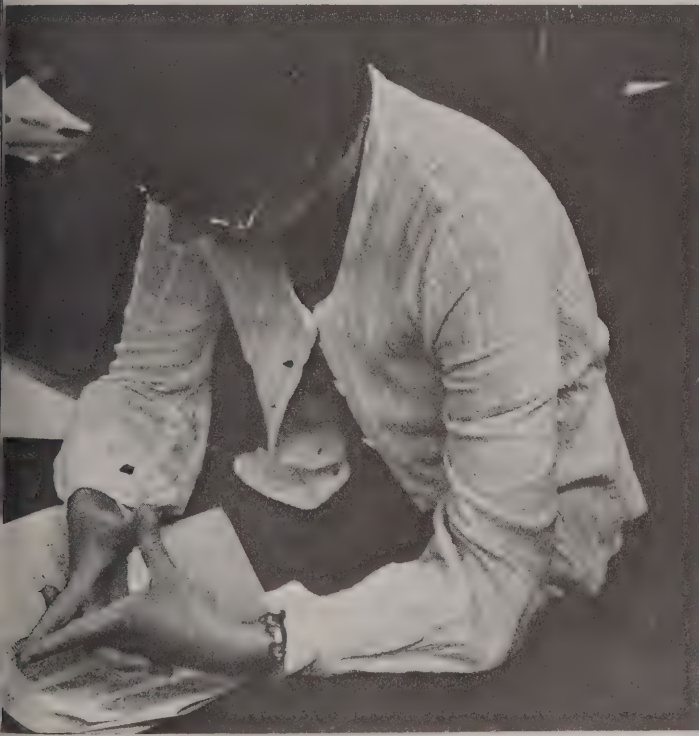




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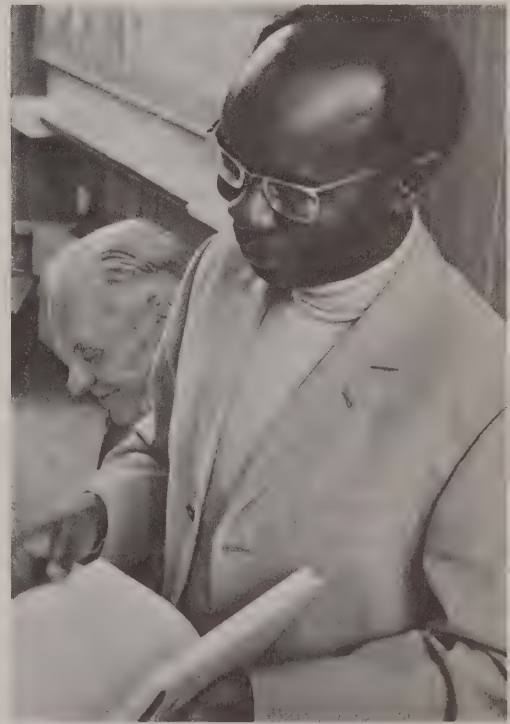
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# Ecumenical Press Service

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## 50 YEARS OF FAITH AND ORDER TO BE OBSERVED NEXT PENTECOST

Geneva (EPS) - The 50th anniversary of the First World Conference of the Faith and Order Movement will be observed during Pentecost 1977 in Lausanne, site of the historic 1927 meeting when more than 400 delegates from nearly hundred churches agreed to work together for the unity of the Church.

Present plans for next year's event include opening presentations by Dr Willem A. Visser 't Hooft, honorary president of the World Council of Churches, and the well-known Roman Catholic theologian Father Yves Congar on "50 Years of Studies on Unity" at Lausanne University on Thursday, May 26. On Friday evening, Professor J. Moltmann of Tuebingen and Professor N. Nissiotis of Athens will speak on "What Kind of Unity is Required Today?"

The second phase of the Faith and Order observances includes a vigil on Saturday night (May 28), a solemn worship of eucharist on Pentecost morning and a popular rally on Pentecost afternoon. These three events will put an emphasis on the spiritual aspects of the search for unity. The Taizé community and members of the Council of Youth, led by Prior Roger Schutz, will share in leading the vigil. The Pentecost worship of the Eucharist, also in the Cathedral, will be the high point of the celebration and is to be televised by Eurovision, the network which links all European countries.

The Pentecost afternoon rally, to be held in the big hall of Beaulieu in Lausanne, will be addressed by Dr Philip A. Potter, WCC general secretary. Participating in the rally will be youth, women and representatives from younger churches. Throughout the observances a strong emphasis will be on music. Choirs from Lausanne and other music groups have pledged their support.

The third phase will be a seminar of theologians and church leaders throughout the week after Pentecost on the theme: One Baptism, One Eucharist, One Ministry. It will be the task of the seminar to evaluate the responses of the churches to the consensus texts on Baptist, Eucharist and a Mutually Recognized Ministry issued by the Faith and Order Commission after long years of work, in order to clarify next steps necessary to arrive at a deeper unity in the Sacraments and the Ministry of the Church.

The final phase will see seminar participants speaking to local congregations in Lausanne and throughout the Canton of Vaud at worship services and other encounters on the Sunday after Pentecost.

EPS

## TANZANIA'S DEVELOPMENT REQUIRES HIGHER EDUCATION FOR WOMEN

Dar es Salaam (EPS) - While Tanzanian law guarantees the equality of women and men, social customs have not yet caught up with the standards set by the law, said Dr Marjorie Mbilinyi, senior lecturer at the University of Dar es Salaam, as she addressed a Lutheran World Federation sponsored seminar for women in Moshi. Dr Mbilinyi said that parents still give priority to educating their sons and that traditional customs discriminating against women continue to prevail. She stressed that speedy development of the country requires full participation of all citizens, and said that this could not happen without raising the educational level of the female population.

EPS

CHRISTIAN-MUSLIM TALKS AFFIRM  
MISSION, DA'WAH; DEPLORE ABUSES

Geneva (EPS) - In the interest of "healing wounds", "clearing debris" and "building new bridges" between Christians and Muslims, a dozen people under joint Christian-Muslim leadership gathered in June in Chambésy, Switzerland, in a conference on Christian mission and Islamic da'wah. The papers and excerpts from the discussion have just been published in the International Review of Mission, journal of the Commission on World Mission and Evangelism of the WCC. Professor Khurshid Ahmad of the Islamic Foundation, Leicester, England, and Dr David Kerr, of Selly Oak Colleges, Birmingham, issued the invitations to the conference and were co-editors for the October issue of the journal.

Meeting for five days, the group heard and discussed papers on "The Concept and Practice of Christian Mission" by Bishop Arne Rudvin from Karachi, Pakistan, and on "The Nature of Islamic Da'wah" by Professor Isma'il al-Faruqi, from Philadelphia, USA. Dr Lamin Sanneh, a Gambian at the University of Ghana, wrote on the Christian experience of Islamic da'wah, while Dr Muhammad Rasjidi, former Minister of Religious Affairs in Indonesia, and Ali Muhsin Barwani, former Deputy Prime Minister in the Government of Zanzibar, offered case studies of Christian mission in Indonesia and Tanzania.

The initiative for calling the conference came from IRM Editor and Director of the Commission on World Mission and Evangelism of the WCC, the Rev. Emilio Castro, who pointed out in his lead editorial that the fact that Islam and Christianity are missionary faiths and that both Muslims and Christians have a missionary vocation and commitment, has led to grievances on both sides and the growth of hostility between communities which has fed serious conflicts, often basically of an economic, political or ideological nature. His hope for the conference was expressed in these words: "to explain to each other our basic motivations, to understand and if possible correct the caricatures of one another, and to see how damaging realities might be changed and a pattern of behaviour in mission and da'wah defined and commended."

Co-editors Ahmad and Kerr helped pilot the conference from planning stage to the final editing of the papers and discussion, including a statement of the conference which affirmed mission and da'wah as essential to the two faiths and recognized the right of religious freedom for communities and individuals. The statement condemned limitations on the exercise of that religious freedom in worship and the use of church buildings and in the way in which educational, medical or other social services were sometimes misused for the purpose of religious proselytism.

The statement urged that social services where they are misused and thus "morally wrong" should be suspended in order "to cleanse the atmosphere of Muslim-Christian relations", and that material assistance intended for social services be distributed wherever possible through or in co-operation with governmental and local community channels. It called for Christians and Muslims to perfect their understanding of the "theologies, histories, moral and legal doctrines, social and political theories and problems of acculturation and modernization faced by the two faiths" so that "good neighbourly and co-operative relations" may exist between the two faiths.

EPS

BAPTISTS OPEN 44 NEW  
CHURCHES IN USSR

Moscow (EPS) - The Evangelical Christian Baptists in the Soviet Union report opening 44 new churches in 1975. The same year 6,200 were baptized and 14,589 members of the unregistered Baptist communions returned into the union.

EPS

AACC SUPPORTS 1977 DATE FOR  
ZIMBABWE INDEPENDENCE

Nairobi (EPS) - The All Africa Conference of Churches (AACC) supports the demands of the four nationalist delegations to the Rhodesian talks in Geneva for independence in 12 months instead of the two-year period on which the Smith regime insists, said AACC general secretary Canon Burgess Carr.

The AACC statement appeals to the delegations to work together in unity so they can "be the key to bring about an end to oppression and prepare the road to peace". Only in that way can there be a basis for the respect of human rights, justice and reconciliation not for Zimbabwe alone but for all people in southern Africa, the statement urges.

The AACC welcomes the efforts of the presidents of the front-line states Angola, Botswana, Mozambique, Tanzania and Zambia to solve the problem of Rhodesia by negotiation. The statement at the same time commends "the brave people of these countries for their uncompromising support of the armed struggle in southern Africa".

The AACC holds that Great Britain as the colonial power in Rhodesia should assume full responsibility and see to it that a constitution is drafted now (and not in two years) which would guarantee a majority decision on the democratic basis of universal suffrage. Elections should be held as soon as the Geneva conference is adjourned to allow the people of Zimbabwe to elect their leaders. Great Britain had proceeded that way in regard to all its colonies "and there is no reason to make an exception in the case of Rhodesia".

The AACC suggests the creation of an international peace force to supervise elections and help transfer the freedom fighters into a new police force and army. The statement warns that disunity among black delegations would only benefit Vorster and Smith and their system.

EPS

NANSEN MEDAL TO BE AWARDED  
LUTHERAN PASTOR IN INDIA

Geneva (EPS) - Dr Olav Hodne, the Norwegian pastor who directs the Lutheran World Federation's Service Programme in India, will become the third Lutheran to receive the Nansen Medal of the United Nations, which is named for Norwegian explorer Fridtjof Nansen, first League of Nations High Commissioner for Refugees. Dr Hodne will formally receive the medal on Human Rights Day, December 10, at a ceremony in Geneva for his work in aiding refugees in India.

The award was given posthumously in 1965 to Joergen Hoerredam, an LWF field worker killed in a plane crash while serving with the Tanganyika Christian Refugee Service. Two years ago it was given to Helmut Frenz, then bishop of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Chile, for his work in helping establish a national committee which aided the families of people detained following the overthrow of the Allende government.

Dr Hodne has served in India since his ordination in 1947. He was first a missionary, then became director of the Cooch Behar Refugee Service, sponsored by the LWF and the Swedish Mission. When Bangladesh became independent in 1971, Dr Hodne headed the Rangpur-Dinajpur Rehabilitation Programme set up by the LWF to help rebuild that war-torn country. He is now based in Calcutta.

EPS

COMMUNITY MOTIVATION SEEN NEW  
APPROACH TO DEVELOPMENT WORK

Jakarta (EPS) - The single most crucial factor in the development process is community motivation work, an ecumenical workshop jointly sponsored by the World Council of Churches' Commission on the Churches Participation in Development and the Christian Conference of Asia has concluded. The workshop, hosted by the Development Centre of the Indonesian Council of Churches, was attended by 25 people from India, Sri Lanka, Thailand, Indonesia, the Philippines and Australia who are specializing in training rural community motivation workers.

Community motivators enable people in villages to understand their situation and to act as a community in dealing with issues affecting their lives. Workshop discussions brought out that since villages are heterogenous communities, a process of conscientization often entails conflict. Community motivation work is an attempt to help the poor majority of the rural population to get a fairer share in the access to the means of production, to social services and to political representation.

While churches, as communities of the faithful, have been active in community based work for a long time, they were often not ready to act on behalf of the most underprivileged groups of society for fear of alienating other sectors of their constituency, workshop participants said. They saw a need to reflect theologically on what the proclamation of the Gospel implies for the churches in this regard. "Reconciliation and fellowship among Christians of different social classes cannot avoid the way of the cross - there cannot be love without the serious and sacrificial attempt to create more justice and equality," a report of the meeting said. A full report, reflecting on theological, cultural and sociological problems and describing training methods and approaches to community motivation work is to be published soon.

EPS

PRECONCILIAR PANORTHODOX MEETING  
OPENS NOVEMBER 21 AS PLANNED

Chambésy (EPS) - The preparatory conference for the first Panorthodox Council since 787 AD will convene November 21 at Chambésy near Geneva as planned, Metropolitan Damascinos of Tranoupolis, director of the Ecumenical Patriarchate's Chambésy Centre has confirmed.

Some doubts as to the status of the conference were expressed by Patriarch Pimen of the Russian Orthodox Church in a report by the Soviet news agency TASS. Patriarch Pimen suggested that the November sessions be considered an ordinary, regular panorthodox meeting because the agenda did not reflect sufficiently the work of the Orthodox churches in the last 15 years in preparation for the Council. However, the participation of the Russian Orthodox Church in the Chambésy conference, whatever its status, will not be affected by Patriarch Pimen's reservations. Metropolitan Damascinos pointed out that the agenda will be reviewed by the heads of the 14 participating Orthodox churches prior to the sessions.

EPS

NATIONAL MISSIONARY SEMINARY  
TO BE FORMED IN NIGERIA

Kaduna, Nigeria (EPS) - The Episcopal Bishops of Nigeria have decided to set up a National Missionary Seminary, to be owned and controlled by the National Episcopal Conference. A committee has been named to study similar institutions abroad and make recommendations to the conference. The seminary will be open to candidates from all 19 states of the Federal Republic of Nigeria.

EPS

BEYERS NAUDE ASKS GERMAN CHURCHES  
TO HELP RESIST APARTHEID

Berlin (EPS) - An appeal from Dr Beyers Naude, director of the Christian Institute in South Africa, to the German churches for support in the struggle against apartheid was read to the ecumenical rally held at Berlin's Congress Hall on the occasion of Reformation Day.

Dr Beyers Naude points out that the German churches are maintaining pastors, missionaries and workers in South Africa, that they have invested much money there and that many German tourists, journalists, businessmen and technicians visit that country. German companies are engaging in extensive trade with South Africa and "profit richly from the labour of our black and white people". Further, German politicians are increasingly interested in the country, its inhabitants and natural resources, he declared.

Because Christians in Germany have "influenced our problems, fears and hopes", the South African churchman called on the German churches to "resist the separation of the races in your country and ours; help to eliminate it, before it is too late, through your pastors and missionaries, tourists, journalists, businessmen and workers; do not exploit our black fellowmen, but support their struggle for full dignity and rights; resist the ideological imprisonment of our white brethren in the apartheid system. Help them to free themselves; and for God's sake and that of all people, stand with us in the fight for liberation and human dignity."

Dr Beyers Naudé said the church in South Africa is split by the racial question which "separates black and white Christians within the same church community". In the present situation "it is unrealistic and almost hopeless to expect at this time a real reconciliation. The appeal to the blacks for reconciliation is meaningless as long as whites in disobedience reject God's call for justice," he said.

The institutional Church in South Africa is powerless in the face of unsolved tensions within its own community and cannot set an example in leading the people of South Africa away from racial discrimination and injustice and to remove inequality from the political system, the South African churchman held. He acknowledged that there are "individual pastors and laymen in every church community, who - however small in number - are prepared to participate in an open confession to justice and are resolute to work in the Name of Christ for liberation. Never has the need of Christians of all races, colour and classes been greater for a confessing church in South Africa than today - a church which in the name of Christ commits itself to the liberation of people from the unjust structure of apartheid," he declared.

He called for the Church in South Africa to realize that - like the church in Mozambique - it is now facing a decisive choice whether to declare its solidarity with the oppressed on the basis of the faith or to be pushed aside. The German churches have a part in this decision because the outcome of the struggle in South Africa will have its consequences everywhere in Africa, in Europe and the entire world, he said.

EPS

BISHOP COMMENTS ON INTENSE  
REACTION TO BRUESEWITZ DEATH

Dresden, GDR (EPS) - The death of Pastor Oscar Bruesewitz by immolation last August has released "long-suppressed concerns and worries in our congregations," Bishop Johannes Hempel told the Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Saxony, which is the largest of the eight churches united in the Federation of Evangelical Churches in the GDR.

The Lutheran pastor's suicide in protest against restrictions placed on Christians by the government raised widespread concern and reaction ranging from claims that the minister had been mentally ill to the belief that he had become despondent over what he felt was a lack of initiative on the part of church bodies.

The "considerable, very intensive and passionate reactions" were expressed in questioning, criticizing and reproaching both the government policy towards the churches as well as the attitude of leading church bodies, Bishop Hempel declared. The criticism suggests that the church leadership does not keep the congregations informed, he said. Congregations feel that "leaders are too diplomatic in their dealings with the government and do not represent the people's concerns clearly enough."

Both criticisms have to be taken seriously and we have to "deal with them urgently," Bishop Hempel told the Synod. "We have to meet and talk together more often and in this way maintain a relationship of confidence. Perhaps we know too little about the congregations, perhaps they in turn know too little about us."

What is needed is a "biblical clarification of the various central issues of our Christian life in a secularized socialist society," he said and pointed out that there are conflicts between "people of faith and people in the secularized world, between the possibilities of power and those of powerlessness." He disagreed with press reports, particularly in the publications of the East German Christian Democratic Union, which have in recent weeks described the relationship between Christians and the socialist state as "extremely harmonious".

Christians in the German Democratic Republic have had enough experience to know when they received "good things from this society" and when "they have suffered in it," he said. "Therefore we are in a position to clarify among ourselves, with the Gospel as our guideline, what we have to think of the various challenges and how we have to react to them," he stated.

EPS

BRANDT OFFERS SUPPORT TO  
BLACK PARENTS ASSOCIATION

Bonn (EPS) - Former Chancellor Willy Brandt, now chairman of the Social Democratic Party, has assured Bishop Manas Buthelezi, chairman of Soweto's Black Parents Association, of support in concrete form and not only "in mere words".

Mr Brandt has asked Dr Buthelezi how his party's support can best be expressed. He said that the BPA's resistance to oppression will not be forgotten in Germany and that "we are on the side of those who are fighting for human and civil rights". Mr Brandt said "we are concerned for the victims, above all the children, and the suffering which has overcome so many families." He assured the Lutheran bishop that "also in future we shall support, and speak for, the unjustly detained, the banned and the exiled."

EPS



1977 BIBLE DISTRIBUTION GOAL  
SET AT US\$12 MILLION

London (EPS) - The United Bible Societies have set a goal of US\$12 million for the world-wide distribution of bibles in 1977. The amount includes costs of translations, printing and distribution. The money will go to countries in which bible societies do not have sufficient financial resources for their work. African countries will receive 26.3 per cent of the total, Central and South America 24.2 per cent, Asia and the Pacific 24.1 per cent and Europe 8.4 per cent. The remainder, or 17 per cent, are designated for translation projects.

Member societies were told that three priorities have been chosen: 1. to reach young people in the whole world with Bible texts, 2. to supply beginning readers with beginner's reading material and 3. to seize the initiative in providing Biblical texts for all Christian churches.

EPS

BCC REJECTS POWELL SCHEME  
TO REPATRIATE NON-WHITES

London (EPS) - The British Council of Churches has sharply rejected the controversial proposal by Member of Parliament Enoch Powell that all non-white Commonwealth citizens be made to leave Great Britain. Instead of promoting racial hatred, everything should be done to bring about rapprochement and understanding between the native population and "British citizens of another skin colour," the BCC said. The principle that all persons are equal in the eyes of the law should under no circumstances be questioned, the statement issued by the BCC's Commission for Race Questions declared. The Commission is chaired by the Rev. Elliott Kendall.

Powell, a former Minister of the Conservative Party, has demanded the repatriation of about 1.8 million Asians, West Indians and Africans who came to Great Britain with Commonwealth passports following their countries' independence.

EPS

DATE AGREED FOR UNION OF  
THREE CAMEROON CHURCHES

Douala, Cameroon (EPS) - Three Protestant churches in Cameroon (the Evangelical Church, the Presbyterian Church in Cameroon and the Cameroon Presbyterian Church) have declared their intention to unite in August 1978. The agreement, reached by the Church Union Committee, is subject to approval by next January's synods of the three churches.

A nation-wide programme of education is under way in local congregations to familiarize church members with the proposed united church constitution. One of the early stumbling blocks in the union talks - the location of a united theological school - has been cleared up with Douala chosen by consensus as a site, but pending approval of the Evangelical Church.

Union talks began in 1964. The two Presbyterian churches are members of the World Alliance of Reformed Churches; all three churches belong to the World Council of Churches.

EPS

SWEDES URGED TO ADOPT SIMPLER  
LIVING STYLE, AID THIRD WORLD

Stockholm (EPS) - Ecumenical Development Week, jointly organized and observed November 14-21 by all churches in Sweden, will focus attention on wasteful luxury living habits and urge citizens to adopt two meatless days a week to drastically cut consumption to help preserve the resources of developing nations.

The campaign during the week will also question the enormous expenditures associated with the Swedish armed forces. A lowering of actual military expenditures would free an enormous amount of money which could be transferred to development grants for the poorer countries, it is suggested. Also recommended is a surplus "spot tax" on special luxury items.

Archbishop Olof Sundby of the Church of Sweden heads the week's steering committee, which counts among its members representatives from most major public organizations. Target for the week is the individual Swede who will be asked to change to a simpler style of living and thereby help his country assume a larger share in international development work.

EPS

THREE CATHOLIC OBSERVERS WILL  
ATTEND LWF SIXTH ASSEMBLY

Vatican City (EPS) - Three observers, representing the Roman Catholic Church, will attend the Sixth Assembly of the Lutheran World Federation at Dar es Salaam in Tanzania next June 13-25. The announcement was made here at the conclusion of three days of discussion between an LWF delegation and members of the Vatican Secretariat for Christian Unity, at which it was agreed to extend contacts between the two traditions to regional churches around the world.

The eight-member LWF delegation, headed by general secretary Carl Mau and including Dr Mikko Juva, president of the federation, spent 35 minutes in private audience with Pope Paul and presented him with a facsimile Bible edition of 1545, translated by Martin Luther into German.

EPS

# EPS

## Ecumenical Press Service

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## DECISION-MAKING ROLE OF WORKERS IN INDUSTRY CAN SOLVE PROBLEMS

St Pölten, Austria (EPS) - The shop floor worker's participation in the decision-making process at work as in society can contribute to solving the problem of alienation in the working world, a consultation here November 6-13 of urban industrial mission experts from socialist and western countries agreed.

Held under the auspices of the European Contact Group on Church and Industry (ECG), the consultation brought together representatives of church-related industrial programmes in 15 countries, including three Eastern European countries, and the World Council of Churches. They heard reports on the role of the church in relation to problems in major cities, particularly in regard to industry, and discussed completion of a three-year study on multi-national corporations.

Participants from capitalist and socialist countries shared each other's experiences. In both social systems, discussions showed, there are tendencies toward economic integration. It was seen as a trend toward concentrating economic power, for instance, in multi-national corporations in capitalist countries. In the socialist countries integration is seen as the cooperation in a whole system of society.

A continuing problem in the industrial world is the alienation of workers, characterized as a situation in which the human being is not respected as a human being. The consultation urged that discussions of this type should include workers as participants. Eight points of contrast were listed: more individualization versus interdependency, cooperation and collectivization; meaningless versus creative work; one-sided versus two-sided responsibility; work as a necessary evil or as service to society; the profit-centred production versus human-centred production; oppressive structures versus co-determination; inequality versus equality in wages; job insecurity and security.

Throughout discussions centred on worship as a service given by people in society related to their own faith and the possibilities which Christ opens up to them in their daily life.

The ECG is chaired by Hendrik Jan ter Bals of the Netherlands who is director of the church sponsored Dienst in de Industriële Samenleving (DISK). Chairperson-elect to take office next year is the Rev. Gerhard Klein, a member of the Kirchlicher Dienst in der Arbeitswelt team of Germany (FGR).

The group maintains relations with the Kek, the Brussels Ecumenical Centre, the Ecumenical Association of Academies and Laity Centres in Europe. It serves as a liaison group for the WCC with urban and industrial mission programmes of the churches in Europe.

The group also received reports from each participating country on the work of the churches with migrant (guest) labour; an evaluation was made of ECG in sponsoring meetings of shop floor workers across national lines. A 5-nation conference of shop stewards was sponsored last September in Brussels as well as exchanges of workers between England, Germany, France and Italy. It is proposed that such meetings continue across national lines among workers from oil, steel, chemical and automobile industries.

Emphasis will be placed in the coming year securing more active participation by groups in Southern Europe (Spain, Italy, Portugal and Greece).

COCU DRAFTS COMMON THEOLOGICAL BASIS  
FOR UNION, ELECTS WOMAN PRESIDENT

Dayton, Ohio (EPS) - Delegates from the nine denominations in the Consultation on Church Union (COCU) chose a new president (Dr Rachel Henderlite), accepted a tenth member body and sent to its churches a seven-chapter "common theological basis" for union entitled "In Quest of a Church of Christ Uniting", at the 14-year-old movement's 13th plenary here, November 4-8.

The four-day meeting approved a resolution which "commends the document...as a statement of emerging theological consensus for study and response, and for guidance in furthering the mutual recognition of members and working toward mutual recognition of ministers". Six of the chapters were sent with the consensus of the denominational delegates. They are the introduction, "unity, a gift to be made visible", "toward a church catholic, evangelical, and reformed", "membership", "confessing the faith", and "worship". The seventh, "ministry", goes with the request that the denominations submit proposed revisions, additions, deletions, or other suggestions by next November, with another COCU plenary session to be held shortly thereafter to deal with results of the denominational study.

The COCU denominations are the African Methodist Episcopal, African Methodist Episcopal Zion, Christian Methodist Episcopal, Episcopal, United Methodist, United Presbyterian Church, Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), Presbyterian Church in the US, United Church of Christ, and the National Council of Community Churches. The latter was unanimously accepted at this plenary as COCU's tenth member body. It is a confederation of 185 congregations (125,000 members) concentrated on the West Coast, with some in the midwest and south.

Roman Catholic, Lutheran, and Baptist observer-consultants participated in the drafting of the chapters which "sum up 14 years of theological work in COCU...and may be considered to be a carrier of its emerging consensus thus far. They reflect the converging theological insights and commitments which have been developing in our time in the worldwide ecumenical movement".

The chapter on ministry, accepting a three-fold ordained ministry of deacon, presbyter (priest, pastor, or elder in various denominational usages), and bishop ran into some difficulty from Presbyterian delegates who were concerned that the chapter not be read in part as constitutional definitions of ministerial arrangements.

The adoption and referral of the consensus document was the culmination of three years of work by a study commission bringing up to date most parts of the 1970 draft of a plan of union sent out to the churches for study and response. Not included in this latest work are portions of the earlier plan covering organization of local congregations.

Among the primary objectives of the paper's section on unity are: "celebration of God's grace shall be central to our life together"; Christ's ongoing mission of salvation for the whole world will mark every endeavour of a united church"; "each member...will be called an apostolic and priestly ministry"; "...structures...will mirror the diversity of its membership"; "previous ecumenical relationships shall be maintained and strengthened"; and "maximum openness shall be provided for our continuing renewal and reformation".

The 66-page document was developed by an 18-member commission headed by Professor John Deschner of Southern Methodist University's Perkins School of Theology. Appended to it was a series of "alerts" which said that the future of Christian unity in the US is threatened by racism, sexism, bureaucratic institutionalism and exclusiveness in local congregations.

(more)

COCU DRAFTS COMMON THEOLOGICAL BASIS  
FOR UNION, ELECTS WOMAN PRESIDENT

Dayton, Ohio (EPS) - Delegates from the nine denominations in the Consultation on Church Union (COCU) chose a new president (Dr Rachel Henderlite), accepted a tenth member body and sent to its churches a seven-chapter "common theological basis" for union entitled "In Quest of a Church of Christ Uniting", at the 14-year-old movement's 13th plenary here, November 4-8.

The four-day meeting approved a resolution which "commends the document...as a statement of emerging theological consensus for study and response, and for guidance in furthering the mutual recognition of members and working toward mutual recognition of ministers". Six of the chapters were sent with the consensus of the denominational delegates. They are the introduction, "unity, a gift to be made visible", "toward a church catholic, evangelical, and reformed", "membership", "confessing the faith", and "worship". The seventh, "ministry", goes with the request that the denominations submit proposed revisions, additions, deletions, or other suggestions by next November, with another COCU plenary session to be held shortly thereafter to deal with results of the denominational study.

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(more)

Among highlights of the plenary were three addresses by Canon Burgess Carr, general secretary of the All Africa Conference of Churches, and the presence as observers of religious leaders from Canada, Belgium, Federal Republic of Germany and the German Democratic Republic.

Dr Henderlite, retired professor of Christian education at Austin (Texas) Presbyterian Theological Seminary, succeeds Bishop Frederick Jordan of Los Angeles. She is an ordained minister of the Presbyterian Church in the US. Bishop Jordan is a member of the African Methodist Episcopal Church.

EPS

JOINT ANGLICAN, CATHOLIC PROTEST ON  
RIGHTS VIOLATION IN CHILE MADE

London (EPS) - The continued violation of human rights in Chile has been protested "on behalf of the Anglican and Roman Catholic communities in Britain" by Anglican Suffragan Bishop Trevor Huddleston of Stepney, East London, and Auxiliary Bishop Gerald Mahon of Westminster who is chairman of the Roman Catholic Commission for International Justice and Peace.

The two bishops called on the Consul General of the Chilean Embassy here to protest the continued detention of Hernan Montealegre, a leading Chilean lawyer who was working for the Catholic Church's Vicariat of Solidarity in the defence of political prisoners. He was arrested by the DINA (secret police) on May 12 and has been held without charges ever since. Before the 1973 military coup in Chile he had been cultural attache and consul at the Chilean Embassy here.

The vicariat's information bulletin "Hoy", published in Santiago reported that a total of 550,000 Chilean exiles live in Argentina. Of these 350,000 are in Patagonia and 200,000 in Mendoza, Bahia Blanca, Buenos Aires and Cordoba. Additionally, 300,000 Chileans have emigrated to the United States, Canada, Australia, Venezuela and Europe. Among the emigrants is 50 per cent of the country's academicians.

EPS

BISHOPS RECEIVED BY NEW BURUNDI  
PRESIDENT, DISCUSS CHANGES

Bujumbura (EPS) - Lieut.-Col. Jean-Baptiste Bagazi, new president of the east-central African Republic of Burundi, has received a delegation of Catholic bishops to discuss with them the reason for the coup of November 1. Bujumbura Radio is quoted as reporting that the church leaders have assured the new regime of their support.

The 32-year-old Col. Bagaza recently led a bloodless coup that overthrew the ten-year-old regime of President Michel Micombero who himself had come to power in a coup. Burundi, like its neighbour Rwanda, has been convulsed sporadically by outbreaks of intertribal warfare since gaining independence from Belgium in 1962. Like the deposed president, who is reportedly in custody, Col. Baganza belongs to the tall, martial Tutsi tribe, that has dominated the 3.7 million population, although comprising only 15 per cent of the population. About 50 per cent of Burundi's population are Roman Catholics. The latest coup was the fortieth in Africa's post-colonial period.

EPS

EKD SYNOD COMMENDS POST-NAIROBI  
WORK, URGES LOCAL COOPERATION

Braunschweig (EPS) - The Synod of the Evangelical Church in Germany (EKD) at its annual session here November 8-12 unanimously commended the Fifth Assembly of the World Council of Churches in Nairobi and the continuing work it generated on the regional level and in congregations.

Strongly endorsing continued ecumenical cooperation, the Synod acknowledged that the commitment "to confess Christ in obedience" is an "essential" element in post-Nairobi reflections. Strengthened communications to facilitate "mutual correction" and interaction between congregations and the work of the WCC, the sharing of experiences between local, national and international levels of the ecumenical movement are considered "particularly important" in the next few years.

Specifically, the EKD welcomed: the theme of the next WCC Central Committee "World Mission and Evangelism", also that congregations emphasize their study of a new life style and witness, EKD support of the WCC's project concerning human rights violations and its forthcoming study on militarism and disarmament. In reference to the main subject before the Synod, the resolution expressed hope that congregations will extend their work on behalf of returnees and resettlers in Germany to also foster a consciousness on behalf of the worldwide refugee and expellee problem.

The nomination of delegates to future WCC assemblies, it was recommended, should include consideration of synod committees' members. It asked the proposal (first presented at Nairobi) for the observance of an annual Ecumenical Sunday at Pentecost be studied.

The Synod heard on opening day, November 8, WCC general secretary Philip A. Potter call on the German churches to play their part in overcoming the world's three major crises: the crises of faith, hope and co-existence, which are now determining the WCC's programmes. In confronting the crisis of faith, Dr Potter said in his address the churches of the world must ask, how can Christ be confessed today. The theology of liberation in Latin America, black theology in Africa and the theology of suffering in Asia are efforts by Christians to come to terms with their problems in different situations.

The crisis of hope is caused by the terrible poverty in many countries, threats to the environment and countless injustices and has led the World Council to work towards a just and participatory society. WCC emphasis on the renewal of the congregation is motivated by the crisis of community and co-existence. Dr Potter characterized all these crisis as opportunities, but warned that they also held inherent dangers. Under these circumstances, he said, continued cooperation and support by the German churches are particularly important.

EPS

## PROTESTANT THEOLOGICAL FACULTY OPENS IN CROATIA

Zagreb (EPS) - The first Protestant Theological Faculty in Yugoslavia held its solemn opening ceremony here October 31. The service was attended by representatives of numerous Christian denominations from throughout Yugoslavia and abroad, as well as officials from the Croatian state and the city of Zagreb. Classes began on November 1, with 51 students from ten different denominations enrolled for the initial courses.

EPS



GDR BUILDING POLICY INCLUDES  
CONSTRUCTION OF CHURCHES

Berlin (EPS) - The building of churches and parish centres has now been officially integrated in the German Democratic Republic's national urban planning programme, it is reported here by the "Berliner Sonntagsblatt". Within the framework of an agreement reached between the Federation of Evangelical Churches, the GDR Government and West German churches, more than a hundred churches, parish centres and manse buildings will be either rebuilt, renovated or newly constructed in the next five years.

Part of the programme are projects in 39 cities and villages which have already cost 15 million Marks in the last three years. Financing is assisted by churches in the Federal Republic of Germany.

Separate from the special programme is one which provides for the construction of church buildings in 35 new suburban settlements in the GDR, in which religious buildings had so far not been provided for. Approval for the erection of church structures, to contain besides worshipping facilities rooms for other purposes as well, including dwellings, was given by the Government early this summer. The churches hope to begin work on the programme within the next two years. Government aid, in the amount of 800,000 Marks annually, has been granted for restoration work on important historic church buildings.

EPS

MORE THAN \$275,000 RECEIVED TO  
AID VICTIMS OF SOWETO UNREST

Johannesburg (EPS) - Sixteen churches and interchurch aid organizations in Europe and North America have so far contributed \$275,000 to the South African Council of Churches Asingeni Relief Fund and the aid fund of the Black Parents Association to assist victims of the Soweto unrest of last June.

In its first report of the use of the fund, the SA Council writes that the money has been used principally for funerals of victims, legal expenses and bail for arrested persons, as well as support for parents and other family members of slain or detained persons.

It is estimated that the Council has been able to assist about 4,700 persons or their families in respect of funerals, legal aid and relief operations. Thus far the Council has given aid for 179 funerals, has instructed attorneys to appear in 3,010 legal cases and has bailed out 790 persons from gaol. At one time, the Council had 70 attorneys under instruction, each handling from two to 10 or even more cases.

The offices of the Council of Churches in Johannesburg and its regional offices are often besieged by persons whose father, brother, breadwinner has been detained. They need legal advice as to their rights and privileges in taking food to the detained persons and to visit them. They ask also for assistance for their own survival.

The Black Parents Association, headed by Bishop Manas Buthelezi, has reported its activities to donor agencies and faces similar vast needs among the people served.

EPS

## EXTENSIVE RECONSTRUCTION PROJECTS PLANNED BY ETHIOPIAN CHURCHES

Geneva (EPS) - Two officials of the Ethiopian Orthodox Church are visiting the World Council of Churches to discuss extensive new projects, geared to bring their church into greater participation in their country's development.

Wolde Selassie, lay theologian and Executive Secretary for Development of the Commission on Interchurch Aid of the Ethiopian Orthodox Church, and Aberra Bekele, Director of the Parish Administrative Council of the Ethiopian Orthodox Patriarchate, said a WCC supported vocational training programme for Orthodox priests had been "most fruitful and very helpful for the church".

The programme has so far retrained 300 clergy in a number of crafts. While this will continue, some changes are planned, Mr Bekele said. These would expand training in cottage industries, such as carpentry, weaving, potteries, tailoring and other handicrafts. Courses in preaching methods will be added.

The Ethiopian Orthodox Church is proposing a number of rural projects, to upgrade farming methods and increase agricultural production. There will be a new emphasis on teaching and organizing parishes to become independent of state support. The rehabilitation of the country's 9,000 monasteries and to help them become self-supporting as the Government's land redistribution programme is extended is a major issue the church must face, Mr Selassie declared. Among projects are short-term loans to farmers, support for aged, handicapped monks, and a campaign to get monks to join farmers' associations.

Priorities for the church, according to the two Ethiopian churchmen, are training of the clergy, organizing church and parish administrations, and the formation of a National Council of Churches. Their proposed programme, valued at about \$4 million, is necessary, they said, "because the church formerly lived on a false economy and now needs help to retrain and reorganize itself until it can become self-reliant and self-supporting".

EPS

## DISCRIMINATORY SEX LAWS PROBED AT BANGALORE CONSULTATION

Bangalore (EPS) - Laws and religious traditions discriminating against women can be changed if women themselves forge ahead and take the initiative in asserting their rights, Brigalia Bam of South Africa and head of the World Council of Churches Unit on Education and Renewal told a four-day (November 4-8) consultation here.

As an example she cited her country's former travel formalities which did not consider women's signatures valid on forms but required them signed by a guardian, usually her father, brother or husband. Ms Bam helped organize a group of women who, among other things, worked towards abolition of this rule and revised the language on travel forms.

The consultation was sponsored by the Christian Institute for the Study of Religion and Society, whose acting director is Dr M.M. Thomas, former chairman of the World Council of Churches' Central Committee.

Sharing the rostrum with Ms Bam in delivering the E.V. Mathew Memorial Lectures, held every other year, was Dr Lotika Sarkar of the Law Faculty at Delhi University who spoke on social legislation and its impact on the status of women. Dr Sarkar pointed out that despite constitutional guarantees, the personal laws of most religions in

India continue to discriminate with impunity. She urged a uniform civil law to apply equally to all men and women of all religions.

Among the 33 participants were some men and women of all walks of life from all over India, urban and rural, educators and social workers. Experiences ranged from organizing working women in the poorer section of Bombay to YWCA members' efforts to improve health delivery services in a Kerala village and community relations specialists planning action programmes for women in North and Northeast India and in Kerala.

EPS

PRACTICAL ISSUES, NO POLITICS TO  
BE DISCUSSED AT ORTHODOX MEETING

Chambésy/Geneva (EPS) - The planning conference November 21-30 for the first Pan-Orthodox Council since the eighth century will not discuss political issues but deal with "concrete questions concerning the whole Orthodox Church," declared Metropolitan Meliton of Chalcedon at a press briefing here. Termed a "preconciliar" conference, it will be the first of several preparatory discussions to determine the date, place and agenda for the larger ecclesiastical event.

Metropolitan Meliton, chief of the Holy Synod of the Ecumenical Patriarchate which is hosting the meeting at its Orthodox Centre in Chambésy, said 14 autocephalous and autonomous Orthodox churches from all over the world will participate in the discussions. While there will be no political discussions because "each Orthodox church is faithful to its country, to its laws and works for the well-being of its people," there will also be no questions raised on dogma or theoretical points. He said such issues will be considered as the remarriage of priests, mixed marriages, a common date for Easter and relations of the Orthodox churches with their sister churches and the ecumenical movement. Final agenda will be decided the day before by the heads of the 14 delegations.

In reply to a question, the Orthodox prelate doubted that the question of abortion would be raised since a "problem concerning the unique personality of man cannot be the subject of a rule. We leave it to each individual to resolve this problem in confession with his spiritual father, because one can never know the whole biological context, personal circumstances etc."

The position of women in the Orthodox Church will not be considered either. "For the Orthodox churches there is no problem about the participation of lay people in the Church. The people have always participated in all aspects of the life of the Church...including our sisters, our mothers, our wives; they too participate in the life of the Church."

On admitting women to the priesthood, the Metropolitan's reply came fast and sharp: "No participation in the priesthood. Missionaries, yes, the same as their participation in good works."

Other preparatory conferences are expected to take place before the Panorthodox Council can convene a number of years from now. For Metropolitan Meliton it is important that the present conference "enter into the spirit of the Orthodox Church". Because of this, the 14 delegations will not be seated in the conference room of the Chambésy Centre but in its church, to fulfill their function as conciliar fathers.

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## Ecumenical Press Service

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THREE YEAR AID PROGRAMME  
FOR MOZAMBIQUE DISCUSSED

Geneva (EPS) - A multi-faceted aid programme for Mozambique, valued at at least \$600,000 over a three-year period in health, education and agriculture is under discussion between the Commission on Inter-Church Aid, Refugee and World Service of the World Council of Churches (CICARWS), the Mozambiquan Government, and the churches.

The Rev. Michael Testa, Representative in Europe for the United Presbyterian Church and the United Church Board for World Ministries, and consultant to CICARWS, has just spent three weeks in Mozambique where steps were taken to initiate the new programme. Dr Testa conferred with the Ministries of Development, Health, Education and Agriculture and attended the annual meeting of the Council of Churches of Mozambique.

Dr Testa reported that the economic situation in Mozambique is critically affected by the closure of the border with Rhodesia which has idled the port cities and railways. The country is struggling to establish its own economy after centuries of colonial exploitation. Progress is being made, but it is painfully slow and requires cooperation from all citizens.

The programmes he discussed range from the supply of 40,000 hospital bed sheets, basic educational materials such as all kinds of writing paper, pencils, slide film projectors to two fully equipped chemistry and biology laboratories. Plans are being worked out for a major agricultural programme in the improvement of the production of rice. Also in the educational assistance category are five tons of clothing every six months for school children and, illustrating the characteristic needs of the country, machetes, axes and all kinds of hand tools for school children who must be trained to cope with their surroundings.

Testifying to the role of the churches in these endeavours is word received from the churches of Mozambique which expressed gratitude "for the material help to our Government. Helping our Government is to help the people of this country, therefore, we as a church organization, support you one hundred per cent." The churches in Mozambique report that members who had stayed away from the church are coming back to it and that particularly the young are beginning to participate increasingly in the life of the churches.

High commendation on the part of the government for the support by the World Council of Churches was expressed by Vice President Marcelino dos Santos, who holds concurrently the portfolio of the Ministry of Development and Economic Planning, Dr Testa reported. He was enabled to inspect the Cabora Bassa Dam in Tété Province which, when completed, will have a capacity output based on five turbines, each with a potential output valued at \$10,000 an hour run 24 hours a day. The supply of power will reach 900 km into the Transvaal Province of South Africa. With an international consortium providing the capital for the giant power scheme and the equipment procured from Western Europe and Japan, the return of investments will receive priority. Originally planned to supply electricity to Rhodesia as well the power scheme does not now include that country.

There are presently great economic hardships suffered by the people, Dr Testa said. These are based on shortages of maize, sugar and rice, which must now be imported although they were traditionally export items. He said the flight of Portuguese from Mozambique continues. Of a record number of 300,000 Portuguese in the country in colonial days, a mere 9,000 remain. Assisting in the reconstruction are technicians recruited from socialist countries such as Rumania, Bulgaria, the GDR, Russia and a few from Cuba. Their contribution is however limited since, generally, they stay on the average six months each and due to the language barrier.

## SCOTT WEIGHS EFFECT OF ANGLICAN DECISION TO ORDAIN WOMEN

Toronto (EPS) - As opponents to the women's ordination decision within the US Episcopal Church began to organize, Archbishop Edward Scott of Canada said the canonical changes authorizing female priests can have a "creative impact upon relationships" with the Roman Catholic and Eastern Orthodox churches, which officially oppose women's ordination.

The Anglican Primate, who is also moderator of the World Council of Churches' Central Committee, noted that past ecumenical councils "did not...initiate completely new courses of action" but rather "confirmed some beliefs and practices which were under way and rejected others..." He opposed the argument that a general council involving Christians from several traditions should pass on women's ordination before it is accepted anywhere. "I wonder...if waiting for a universal consensus does not in fact rule out any action. In the early Church many things were tried in one area and then either approved or rejected for catholic use. Perhaps, today, we need again to consider this as a valid way of acting," he said. It may help the whole church reflect at a deeper level, in the Archbishop's view, "if we are prepared to have other churches help us evaluate the results of the action," after it has been tested by experience. This would be a contribution to wider ecumenical relationships. Anglicans in Canada plan to ordain women priests yet this month.

Meanwhile, a congress to present "spiritual principles and ecclesial structures" of a "continuing Episcopal Church" has been called for next September 14-16 in St Louis by the Fellowship of Concerned Churchmen, which is opposed to the decisions of the US Episcopal Church and the Canadian Anglican Church to ordain women into the priesthood. In a statement, the FCC declared it is impossible for Episcopalians who want to keep the faith whole to remain in communion with the Protestant Episcopal Church.

EPS

## NEWS OF ARRESTED CHILDREN DEMANDED IN SOUTH AFRICA

Johannesburg (EPS) - The Progressive Party in South Africa has demanded that the police reveal the whereabouts of the black children and teenagers arrested in Soweto in recent weeks. Helen Suzman, Member of Parliament for the white opposition party, was finally given assurances, after a heated debate with Justice Minister Jimmy Krueger, that the police will establish a special bureau where black parents can inquire about their detained children. The police continue to refuse to give the number of arrested children, many of whom are less than 16 years old. In one case an entire school of 63 children was removed to jail with their teachers.

Continuous raids have compelled many parents to try to find safety for their children outside Soweto. More than 170 students have fled to Swaziland and Botswana or were taken there by their parents. Others are sheltered with friends or relatives in remote rural areas. The Christian Institute in Johannesburg and the South African Council of Churches are overwhelmed with inquiries from worried parents, seeking counsel and assistance for the evacuation of their children.

The police claim that arrests are not carried out indiscriminately and serve the purpose of finding the leaders of the unrest in the last few months. Black community representatives contradict this. Helen Suzman was told that police go from house to house with lists of students, arresting those that did not sit for their year-end examinations. A boycott of examinations was part of the student protest.

EPS

## YMCA DELEGATES URGE HUMAN RIGHTS DISARMAMENT, NEW ECONOMIC ORDER

Palacios, Texas (EPS) - Delegates to the YMCA World Youth Peace Conference, meeting here November 8-14, adopted resolutions challenging themselves and their organization to become involved in matters of human rights, disarmament, and a new world economic order.

Resolutions urged YMCAs to promote the study of human rights at all levels of their programmes, withdraw investments in countries practising apartheid "or other repressive methods" and review involvement in corporations without affirmative action programmes. Delegates urged YMCAs to oppose increasing government expenditures for military weapons and campaign against the sale of war toys and violence in mass media.

Actions taken reflected the concerns brought to the conference by religious and world leaders. Dr C.I. Itty, director of the World Council of Churches Commission of the Churches on Participation in Development, listed in the keynote address five areas as obstacles to peace: nuclear stockpiling, growing militarism, economic injustice, racism, and religious and ideological fanaticism. He urged the establishment of "nuclear-free zones", and asked delegates not to take jobs that contribute to nuclear arms production.

D.C. Mills, the permanent representative of Jamaica to the United Nations, called for a new economic order to insure a more equitable distribution of the world's resources. He said "it has become clear that the foundations of peace and security and of human rights must rest on the achievement of a far greater degree of economic and social justice in the world." Roman Catholic Bishop Carroll Dozier of Memphis told the delegates that "Peace is not merely the absence of war; peace is the heart of a good relationship." He urged that "at some point, the follower of Christ must take a stand and ask the question: Is this the Gospel value? What is the armaments race doing to the body of Christ?"

The conference was the first of its kind to be held by the World Alliance of YMCAs and drew 200 delegates from 60 countries. Fredrik Franklin, secretary general of the World Alliance, said the resolutions were not merely to point out what should be done, but committed the YMCAs to make these concerns an integral part of their programmes.

EPS

## UGANDA NOT THREATENED BY HUNGER DESPITE SKYROCKETING PRICES

Stuttgart (EPS) - Despite enormous price increases totalling 150 per cent within the last two years (a chicken costs \$8, an egg 25 cents) and many supply problems, the population in Uganda is not threatened by hunger, according to Dr Dieter Krause of the German churches Bread for the World organization. Dr Krause has just returned from a four-week survey trip to East Africa.

The German churches have supported the work of the Christian Rural Service, initiated by the Anglican Church to induce community development, continuing adult education and increased agricultural production. The formation of self-help groups in rural areas, and the adoption of advanced agricultural methods is being promoted by 60 staff members. Church-state relations have so far remained free of tension.

EPS

ACTIVE PROTESTANT CHURCH  
LIFE REPORTED IN SIBERIA

Geneva (EPS) - Hundreds of Protestant congregations in the Asian Soviet republics and in Siberia lead an active church life without "explicit dogmatic theology, definite church order, clergy and outward organization", reported Dr Paul Hansen, Europe secretary of the Lutheran World Federation, after a visit to the Soviet Union.

These congregations, he said, have a "strong, simple, personal faith, present an active witness to the world and with their joyful participation in church services and their natural common prayer, they give us a vivid picture of what the primitive Christianity of the apostles was like." He described a six-hour service attended by more than 600 people in the town of Alma Ata, capital of the Kazhak Soviet Republic.

Dr Hansen had been requesting permission to visit German-speaking Lutherans in various parts of the Soviet Union for the last 12 years, but had only been able to visit the Baltic states of Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania until this year when he was able also to visit Alma Ata and Zelinograd. Dr Hansen was accompanied by Pastor Kalnins from Riga, Latvia, who has been making annual visits to Siberia, Kazakhstan, Kirghizia and the Caucasus for the past seven years.

USSR Government figures state that there are 1.8 million Russian Germans in Kazakhstan who originally came from the territories occupied by the Volga Germans, the Black Sea Germans, from Volhynia and the larger Russian cities like Moscow and Leningrad. During the early days of the Second World War there was a massive forced resettlement of Germans into the remote areas. Dr Hansen declared it is impossible to ascertain how many of these regard themselves as Christians.

Nonetheless he stated "It is a fact that in hundreds of places in Kazakhstan as well as in Siberia and the Soviet Republics of Uzbekstan, Tadzhikistan, Turkmenistan, Kirghizia, Moldavia, Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, German-speaking citizens of Lutheran Reformed, Brethren and Mennonite persuasion get together for services, prayers, meetings and Bible studies."

Only a few of these "congregations" - about 30 - are registered with the state, but they all seem to have the freedom to exist, Dr Hansen reported. He added that in the six Lutheran churches in Eastern Europe, including in the three Baltic states, there have been no cases in which pastors or church workers or members were imprisoned, tortured, or put in psychiatric clinics because of their faith. It will be possible, he was told by the Ministry for Religious Affairs, to send the German-speaking congregations theological literature for the education of the preachers, most of whom are laymen, and German Bibles.

EPS

FINNISH LUTHERANS AGAIN  
REJECT WOMEN'S ORDINATION

Helsinki (EPS) - The ordination of women has been rejected for the third time by the Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Finland meeting here in early November. The 66 to 37 vote in favour of women's ordination was short of the three quarters majority necessary to approve the measure. A year ago 63 delegates were opposed while 55 were in favour of the recommendation. It was agreed to deal with the question again "when the time is ripe".

Currently about 600 female theological graduates serve as unordained lecturers and carry out many of the functions of a pastor, but cannot preside at celebrations of the eucharist.



## RURAL COMMUNITY MOTIVATORS TO FOSTER SELF-DETERMINATION

Jakarta (EPS) - An ecumenical workshop for trainers of rural community motivators, hosted here by the Development Centre of the Indonesian Council of Churches, has reiterated that motivation is an important prerequisite for development.

Sponsored jointly by the Development and Services Desk of the Christian Conference of Asia and the Commission on the Churches' Participation in Development of the World Council of Churches, the workshop was attended by 20 community motivators from India, Sri Lanka, Thailand, Indonesia, the Philippines and Australia.

Together they analyzed the political, economic and cultural factors helping or hindering community motivation work, the kind of community that should spring from this work and the biblical and sociological perspective to be employed. Discussions of case studies and a three-day field trip to a motivators training camp in East Java were high points of the consultation.

Participants agreed that community motivation work is an essential effort toward achieving a type of development which will be oriented towards the majority of the poor in a community who should learn to shape their lives and carry the programme themselves. Community motivation is an attempt to involve the community in its own development at all levels. Whereas community development work seeks participation in a ready-made programme, motivators help the community to define its own needs and seek its own solution, even at the risk of conflict with existing structures. The process includes awareness building, analyzing the context, enabling and training in particular skills, organizing and encouraging in times of conflict and crisis.

Opinions at the workshop differed how far the churches are willing to support the programme if it means empowering the poor and oppressed to direct their own development.

EPS

## ORTHODOX CONFERENCE RECEIVES PROPOSALS FOR GRAND COUNCIL

Chambésy (EPS) - The first preparatory conference for the Grand Council of all the Orthodox churches opened here with agreement among the heads of the 13 delegations to conduct discussions in the light of a basic four-point directive. This expresses the desirability of the Grand Council's convening as soon as possible, that its duration be short, that neither dogma nor current canon law be discussed but that "theological and ecclesiological thought be developed while dealing with current problems", and that the Grand Council be followed by other Councils.

The relations and existing dialogue of the autocephalous churches among themselves, with the Ecumenical Patriarchate of Constantinople, other Christian churches and the World Council of Churches will be analysed. The problem of finding a common date for Easter in coordination with that of all other Christian churches will round out the agenda of the preparatory consultation.

The need for a Panorthodox Council or Grand Council of the Orthodox Churches was first expressed in 1967 by the late Ecumenical Patriarch Athenagoras. Since then Panorthodox conferences have met in Chambésy in 1968 and 1971 and a preparatory secretariat was formed. The current preconciliar conference was first scheduled to meet in 1972 but was postponed until now. The present Ecumenical Patriarch, Demetrios I, will convene the Grand Council when the date has been established and the site chosen. This should be in a country "with an Orthodox majority", according to Metropolitan Meliton of Chalcedon, representative of the Ecumenical Patriarchate who styled the current meeting a "working conference" or "laboratory".

CHRISTMAS MESSAGE 1976

There is a mood of despair in our world today. For some the despair is quiet, because they have lost a sense of the meaning of life while grasping their possessions in fear. For others it is restless, because they are angry and frustrated that they continue to suffer injustice and indignity in a world of plenty and of pious platitudes.

1976 has seen the further erosion of human rights through increasingly repressive regimes, backed by all the panoply of military power, of torture, and of cynical disregard for human life and dignity. The economy of the world limps along, with the strong taking measures to bolster up themselves and the weak being left to fall and die. The homeless refugees multiply, and few there are to succour them. There are those who take their despair into their own hands and challenge to death the oppression and callousness around them. There are those, too, who are trapped in the systems under which they live and see no way out - some react by clinging nostalgically to the past; some retreat into themselves in transcendental religious meditation of various kinds; others rebel out of disgust, boredom and hatred for their societies and for themselves; some hope wistfully for a better future.

Christmas reminds us once again that our faith is in a God of hope who brought a new future to birth in the Child of Bethlehem. The Rabbis used to comment that God created all things with finality, but he created humanity in hope. The tragedy of the human story has been the ways in which hope in a life of good has again and again been dashed. The prophet Jeremiah wrote to the exiles in Babylon: "For I know the plans I have for you, says the Lord, plans for peace and not for evil, to give you a future and a hope" (29:11). It is to us "prisoners of hope" that God has come in Christ as the New Man, making incarnate his plan and promise. A modern writer has well said: "The flesh of God is the hope of man."

God did not accept the status quo of our human existence. He came in Christ to show us a new and living way forward into a full life of peace, justice and integrity of being. In Christ he manifested again that human beings are in the making, that they are an experiment with all its risks and dangers as they become conformed to his image. Christ took the risks and dangers upon himself as he assaulted the vicious circle of people's selfish understanding of themselves and of their world, and the static acquiescence with disease, poverty, class and religious divisions. His whole life and ministry was God's sign of hope in a despairing world. And even when on the Cross he cried out mankind's sense of forsakenness and hopelessness, God answered the cry with the liberating life of the resurrection.

At this Christmastide, the people of God, the Body of Christ, are called to be signs of hope. Like their Lord, they refuse to accommodate themselves to the status quo in our societies and in human beings. They bring the adventurous life of faith and love to bear on all the intractable problems of our time. The flesh of Christ given for the life of the world becomes their flesh which bodies forth the hope of God to all. They give an account of the hope that is in them with the simplicity and respect of those who are the messengers of the Kingdom of God and his justice. And they do so with the whole of themselves.

As our hope is founded in the incarnation, death and resurrection of our Lord, so we become signs of hope as we offer ourselves afresh to be born anew in Christ, as we take up our cross daily and bear him before our fellow human beings with every nerve of faith and love in all we are and say and do.

The Fifth Assembly of the World Council of Churches which met last year expressed its convictions about this Jesus, the flesh of God, who frees and unites, in the prayer:

God of Hope, whose Spirit gives light and power to your people, empower us to witness to your name in all the nations, to struggle for your own justice against all the principalities and powers and to persevere with faith and honour in the tasks that you have given to us. Without you we are powerless. Therefore we cry together:

Maranatha. Come Lord Jesus.

Let us therefore rejoice in hope this Christmastide and in the coming year.

Philip Potter  
General Secretary  
World Council of Churches

Christmas 1976

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DÉCEMBRE 1976

no 35





THE FLESH OF GOD  
IS  
THE HOPE OF  
MANKIND



1902

*"At this Christmastide, the people of God, the Body of Christ, are called to be signs of hope. Like their Lord, they refuse to accommodate themselves to the status quo in our societies and in human beings. They bring the adventurous life of faith and love to bear on all the intractable problems of our time. The flesh of Christ given for the life of the world becomes their flesh which bodies forth the hope of God to all. They give an account of the hope that is in them with the simplicity and respect of those who are the messengers of the Kingdom of God and his justice. And they do so with the whole of themselves.*

*As our hope is founded in the incarnation, death and resurrection of our Lord, so we become signs of hope as we offer ourselves afresh to be born anew in Christ, as we take up our cross daily and bear him before our fellow human beings with every nerve of faith and love in all we are and say and do."*

(Extract from Dr Philip Potter's Christmas Message)

Living signs of the Christmas hope from the four corners of the earth:

1905: Dancing to the glory of God (India)  
1902: Mary's joy - detail of fresco (India)  
(Caraus Photos)

Christmas: in the midst of...

1903: ...sick people in hospitals (Britain)  
1909: ...the forgotten  
(Salvation Army photos)

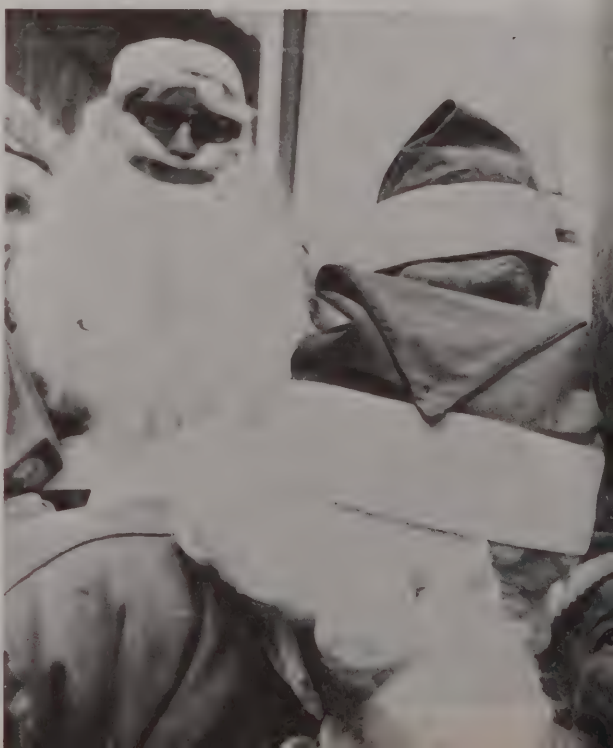
1907: ...the hungry  
1906: ...the desolate (Hong Kong)  
(Help the Aged-photos)

Christmas: a festival which is the antithesis of:

1904: ...overconsumption and its aftermath...  
1908: ...or the commercial merry-go-round of a bygone age  
(RNS photos)



1905



1908



1903



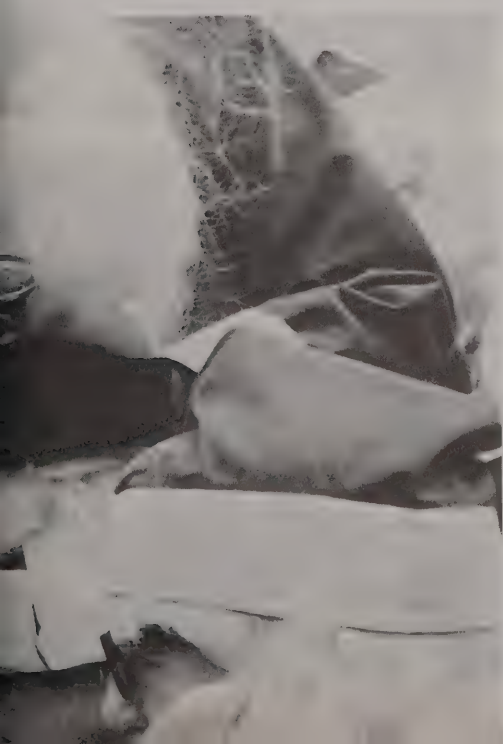
1904



1907



1909





1901



1900

1898

FIRST  
PRECONCILIAR  
PANORTHODOX  
CONFERENCE  
Chambésy  
November 1976



Thirty bishops from thirteen autocephalous and autonomous Orthodox Churches, accompanied by a large number of lay theologians, took part in the First Preconciliar Panorthodox Conference at the end of November in the Orthodox Centre of the Ecumenical Patriarchate in Chambésy near Geneva. Metropolitan Meliton of Chalcedon presided at the Conference, the object of which was to prepare for the convocation of the Great Ecumenical Council of the Orthodox Church. It is twelve centuries since the last such Council took place.

1901: The 13 delegations at the opening service.

1898: The WCC was represented at the Conference by the Rev. Dr W.A. Visser 't Hooft and the Rev. Dr Philip Potter (3rd and 5th from r.).

1897: In his address to the Conference, Metropolitan Meliton urged the participants to "look steadfastly to Christ - the heart and the centre" in all their discussions.

1900: The Christ - detail of the central fresco in the church at Chambésy where the bishops met.

1899: Metropolitan Methodius of Axum, one of the participants.

WCC photos.

1899



# EPS

## Ecumenical Press Service

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## HUMAN RIGHTS CONSULTATION ASKS RELEASE OF KOREAN PRISONERS

Seoul (EPS) - An international consultation of church leaders from Asia, Europe and the United States has appealed to the South Korean Government for amnesty for the signatories of the March 1 declaration which had called for the restoration of democracy and human rights in Korea. The petition also appealed for amnesty for the renowned poet Kim Chi Ha and "all prisoners of conscience". The signatories of the March 1 Declaration, including former presidential candidate Kim Dae Jung, have appealed against sentences of prison terms ranging from two to eight years.

The International Consultation held on the initiative of the National Council of Churches of Korea from 25-27 November on the theme "National Security, Human Rights and Peace", sent its appeal to Korean President Park Chung Hee.

In a public statement, the consultation declared that "Christians cannot give their support uncritically to a government for the sake of security alone. Governments have to respond to the legitimate aspirations of the people and we believe that democratic governments that build trust are the best guarantee to people's welfare and national security."

The consultation assumed special significance in the context of the Republic of Korea where the government by a series of emergency decrees has abrogated human rights in the name of national security and where Christians have been giving inspiring leadership in the struggle for the protection of human rights. The witness of the Korean Christians has been a challenge to "the whole world community to live in a more humane and compassionate way" the consultation affirmed. In addition to representatives of the Korean churches, there were participants at the consultation from the churches in Australia, Canada, Germany, Japan, the Netherlands and the United States together with consultants from the World Council of Churches and the Christian Conference of Asia.

In "An Affirmation" adopted by the consultation in its final session chaired by Dr William P. Thompson, President of the National Council of Churches of the USA, it stated that "human rights are not just a matter of individual protection of rights under just and impartial laws but imply continuous transformation of society", and that "freedom, equality and participation of the people in decision-making are the necessary foundations for democratic society and governments that instil confidence by protecting human rights are the best guarantee for people's welfare and national security".

Noting that for many Christians "a commitment to the Gospel has led to a deep involvement in human rights" the consultation affirmed its confidence "in the integrity of those who have suffered because of their dedication to human rights and social justice".

The participants at the consultation from the Christian Conference of Asia were Dr Yap Kim Hao, general secretary, and Rev. Ron O'Grady, associate general secretary; those from the World Council of Churches were Dr Emilio Castro, director of the Commission on World Mission and Evangelism, and Ninan Koshy, executive secretary of the Churches' Commission on International Affairs.

EPS

TEN THEMES ADOPTED FOR  
PANORTHODOX COUNCIL

Chambésy (EPS) - Thirty Orthodox bishops from 13 countries concluded November 29 a week-long planning conference here for the first Pan-Orthodox Council in 1200 years by adopting a ten-point agenda for the historic meeting. Yet to be decided in other preparatory consultations are the exact date (several years from now) and location of the Grand Council as well as additional procedural questions.

The last such council or synod in which the Orthodox churches participated was held at Nicea in 787, before the great schism of the 11th century left the Orthodox and Roman churches split over dogma. The agenda for the next synod will include no dogma. Subjects unanimously agreed for the synod agenda were:

1. The Orthodox diaspora (the canonical situation of Orthodox church members living in non-Orthodox countries);
2. The independence of Orthodox churches;
3. The autonomy of Orthodox churches (such as that of Finland which is autonomous but subordinate to the Ecumenical Patriarchate in Constantinople);
4. The order of precedence of the churches in their liturgy;
5. The new calendar (a few Orthodox churches still follow the old Julian calendar, while the majority follow the Gregorian);
6. Obstacles to marriage (such as degrees of kindred);
7. The revision of fasting rules (which may lead to a relaxation of present strict Orthodox rules on fasting);
8. Relations of the Orthodox churches with the rest of the Christian world;
9. The Orthodox churches and the ecumenical movement;
10. The contribution of the Orthodox churches to the Christian ideals of peace, liberty, fraternity and love between peoples, and the suppression of racial discrimination.

Apart from the representative of the Ecumenical Patriarchate in Constantinople, Metropolitan Meliton who also chaired the meeting, the conference brought together delegates from the churches of Alexandria, Antioch (Syria), Jerusalem, Moscow, Serbia, Romania, Bulgaria, Cyprus, Greece, Poland, Czechoslovakia and Finland. Delegates from the Orthodox Church of Georgia (USSR) failed to obtain visas in time and did not attend.

In the course of discussions here, the Orthodox bishops adopted procedures necessary to complete preparations for the Council. The next preparatory or preconciliar meeting, they recommended, should be held within a year. They expressed a desire that current dialogues between the Orthodox churches and the Anglican, Old Catholic, Roman Catholic and Lutheran churches should be intensified and that special efforts should be made concerning dialogue with the five Eastern Oriental churches "which had fallen behind".

The preconciliar conference went on record in support of increased Orthodox participation in the ecumenical movement. The bishops pointed up the need to intensify Orthodox participation in the World Council of Churches "so that the Orthodox contribution which gives to this Council its ecumenical character be reflected particularly at the level of personnel at the headquarters of the WCC by the inclusion of Orthodox theologians", so that the documents of the Council "and in particular those touching on the subject of the theology of Christian unity" can take into account the Orthodox point of view "and do not bear exclusively a Protestant character".

(more)

The conference expressed agreement in principle with a proposal to adopt a common date for Easter. But in view of the practice of the old church and due to difficulties of a pastoral character emerging in certain local churches, it was decided to study the question and all its implications as soon as possible. A consultation will be called of high-ranking prelates, specialists in canon law, historians and sociologists who will bring their conclusion to the next preparatory conference.

In conclusion, the conference went on record as being in favour of collaborating with believers of other than Christian faiths "to eliminate fanaticism and to work toward bringing about liberty, reconciliation among people and peace throughout the world in service to mankind without distinction of race or religion".

EPS

SACC PRESIDIUUM UNTRoubLED BY  
POLICE RAID, RESTATES POSITION

Johannesburg (EPS) - The security police raid November 25 on the offices of eight church organizations, including the South African Council of Churches is seen by church leaders as part of the "current country-wide attempt to cripple and paralyse" any organization opposed to the policies of the national party.

A statement by the presidium of the SACC points out that documents and books confiscated during the raid were already in public circulation and available to the police at any time.

The raid lasted eight hours during which staff of the organizations in the six-storey building were not allowed to leave and no-one was allowed to enter. Four police vans were used to haul away the confiscated material and five people were detained. They are: Cedric Mayson, editor of the Christian Institute's journal "Pro Veritate"; Mrs Bernadette Mosala, an employee of the SACC, and her husband, Leonard Mosala; Barney Ngakane, director of the SACC's university fund; and Miss Myrtle Wyngaard, assistant to the director of the Christian Academy. A sixth person, Mrs Sybil Brown, of the Ecumenical Literature Distribution Trust was only briefly detained. Also detained briefly on the day of the raid was the Rev. Reinhardt Bruckner, director of the Christian Academy. However, Mr Bruckner was deported to his native West Germany the day after the raid.

The SACC statement said: "We are untroubled by this raid. Our activities are pursued completely in the open. We are party to no plots and plans. We have consistently stated our belief in non-violence although we have made our fundamental opposition to government apartheid policies unequivocally clear.

"What perturbs us about the raid is that it is symptomatic of a regime which, becoming desperate because the failure of its politics is increasingly equating any opposition to those policies as being legally offensive. We see the raid as part of the current country-wide attempt to cripple and paralyse organizations which pursue policies and ideals radically opposite to those of the national party.

"We advocate a social order fundamentally different from the present apartheid set-up in South Africa and we do so on the grounds of our understanding of the Gospel of Jesus Christ. Over against apartheid, which proclaims the immutable separation of peoples, the Gospel, we believe, proclaims the unity of mankind.

"We have no desire or power to oppose physically the type of action the police took (yesterday) because armed with the power of the Gospel we have something which regimes from the Roman caesars to the Russian communists have struggled in vain to overcome."

## CHURCH AID SHIPMENTS FLOWN TO TURKISH EARTHQUAKE ZONE

Geneva (EPS) - First shipments of relief materials and financial aid at a total value of \$150,000 have been sent by two church agencies to the victims of the November 25 earthquake in eastern Turkey.

The German churches aid agency, das Diakonische Werk, have airlifted 7.5 tons of warm children's clothing, 300 winter tents, and 2,400 woollen blankets on November 26 and 27. The material was flown to Ankara in two planes of the Federal Government and taken from there directly to the earthquake area.

The Swiss Evangelical Hilfswerk have donated Swiss Francs 100,000 (\$41,322) and 2,000 woollen blankets to the Development Foundation of Turkey which handles Swiss aid distribution.

M. Andres of the Swiss aid agency left for the earthquake area the day after the disaster to survey needs and help coordinate the distribution of aid supplies. Turkish Red Cross officials reported that international concern for the victims of the disaster was expressed in the form of 15,000 tents, blankets, clothing, food supplies and drugs some of which have already been distributed to the estimated 50,000 homeless persons in the mountains of eastern Turkey. They suffer especially because of the biting cold and snow falls which hinder relief operations.

Turkish relief officials said that 2,000 arctic tents (5-man type) are urgently needed, in addition to those already supplied or pledged, and ten Land Rovers to facilitate relief work and help resettle the population.

Metropolitan Meliton, of the Ecumenical Patriarchate, who presided a preconciliar Orthodox conference in Chambésy near Geneva when the disaster occurred, has issued an urgent appeal to all interchurch aid organizations throughout the world. Himself a Turkish citizen, the Metropolitan asked that everything be done to come to the assistance of the victims, who need emergency relief and aid in the long, hard task of rehabilitation and reconstruction.

EPS

## \$1.5 MILLION DEVELOPMENT AID SOUGHT BY AUSTRALIAN CHURCHES

Sydney (EPS) - The target for this year's Christmas Aid Appeal of the Australian Council of Churches is \$1.5 million to help people in development programmes around the world. The ACC's 12 member churches will be joined for the first time by the Australian Catholic Church which will hold a parallel appeal for the "common concern in aid, development and justice".

In 1976 the Australian churches have assisted in emergencies such as the Guatemala, Philippines and Bali earthquakes; helped support farm development and community projects throughout Asia, the Pacific, Africa and Latin America. They have sponsored the work of two agronomists in Pakistan and an agriculturalist in Tanzania. In addition, the Council has assisted refugees from Lebanon and Indochina to settle in Australia.

EPS

DUTCH BANK DENOUNCED FOR  
GIVING FALSE INFORMATION

Amsterdam (EPS) - "The Algemene Bank Nederland, like the AMRO bank, is not a bank to which Christians should entrust their money," according to "Prepaid Reply", a Dutch action group supporting the World Council of Churches' Programme to Combat Racism.

In a statement, the action group accuses the ABN of having provided misleading about its involvement in financial transactions with the Government of the Republic of South Africa.

Some time ago, when "Prepaid Reply" denounced the AMRO bank as strengthening the racist Vorster regime through loans to the South African Government, ABN declared that, unlike the AMRO bank, it had never provided such loans and only played a mediating role on behalf of clients interested in South African bonds.

Recently, ABN admitted that in the seventies it indeed provided direct loans on the basis of funds entrusted to it by clients. The earlier boycott against AMRO had attracted support by three progressive political parties in the Netherlands. It was after that support became known that ABN admitted it had furnished false information earlier.

The Algemene Bank Nederland is one of the banks in which the World Council of Churches has an account.

EPS

IMPORT OF BIBLES HELD  
UP IN MOZAMBIQUE

Maputo (EPS) - While small lots of Portuguese Bibles have arrived here safely in recent months, the Rev. Albert Rotach of the Swiss Mission Agency reports that the Mozambican authorities are restricting the importation of larger shipments of Bibles. Requests by the Mozambique Bible Society for permission to import or print have been held up. The National Christian Council has taken the matter up with the National Book Institute, which decides government policy on the importation and printing of books. Mr Rotach said the difficulty in granting import permits for Bibles did not seem to be based on principle. He reported that the Rev. Theo Schneider and the Rev. D.C. Miravate from the Transvaal had been freely granted visas to attend a meeting of the committee set up to revise the Tsonga-language Bible.

EPS

CATHOLICS, ANGLICANS SPONSOR  
ECUMENICAL PARISH

Graymoor, NY (EPS) - An ecumenical parish, jointly sponsored and financed by the Roman Catholic and Anglican dioceses, will be opened on the island of Jamaica. Named for the Martyrs of Uganda, the new parish will be located in Bridgeport, and also serve the communities of Independence City, Gregory Park, Port Henderson and Edgewater. It is one of the first such ventures in the Western Hemisphere. The project was launched at the invitation of Archbishop Samuel Carter, SJ. Initial plans call for the construction of a church at the Bridgeport location whose facilities would be shared by both the Anglican and Roman Catholic congregations. Separate rectories will be maintained on adjacent lots for the Atonement Friars who are to staff the Catholic part of the parish and for the Anglican vicar and his family.

EPS

AUSTRALIAN CHURCHES CALL FOR  
MORATORIUM ON URANIUM

Sydney (EPS) - The executive committee of the Australian Council of Churches has called "for a five-year moratorium on mining and exporting uranium to allow sufficient time for public debate and for further research into the risks involved and possible alternative energy sources".

The resolution, passed unanimously by the committee, welcomed "the open and honest discussion of the serious risks and disadvantages associated with the various operations of the nuclear power industry in the Ranger Uranium Environmental Inquiry First Report". It urged the Government to accept all the recommendations of the report, especially those calling for ample time for public and parliamentary debate before any decisions are taken on these matters.

Discussions drew attention to the statement in the report recognizing that "ultimately many of the questions which arise are social and ethical ones". The resolution also calls for "a significant increase in Australian Government investment and support for research and development into alternative non-nuclear energy sources such as solar, wind, tidal and biochemical energy".

EPS

ZAIRE RETURNS SCHOOLS TO  
CHURCH ADMINISTRATION

Kinshasa (EPS) - The Government of Zaire has decided to return to the churches and other private organizations the schools it took over nearly two years ago. The issue was discussed between the Commissioner of State for Political Affairs, Mr Engulu and Anglican Bishop Yungu, president of the Episcopal Conference of Zaire.

Included in the decree of December 30, 1974, which provided for the nationalization of non-State schools, is the banning of religion classes during school hours. These are to be allowed again under the order revoking the 1974 decree.

A circular sent out by Bishop Yungu to dioceses and religious congregations, asking them to resume responsibility for the schools they had previously run, specifies that clergy or members of religious congregations should not necessarily be appointed as heads of the schools. They should however be responsible for the management of the schools and for the appointment of personnel.

EPS

POTTER SENDS MESSAGE  
TO COUNCIL OF YOUTH

Geneva (EPS) - "Christ asks us to be the leaven at the deepest level of human society...to create sparks of love, equality, sharing, forgiveness and mutual openness and to go right to the heart of the political, economic and social systems which imprison us," states a message from Dr Philip A. Potter, general secretary of the World Council of Churches, to the Council of Youth on the occasion of the reading of the second letter to the people of God in Notre Dame Cathedral, Paris, on December 5.

The new international economic order, effective disarmament, a true respect for human rights, a real sharing between the haves and the have-nots will remain a pious dream without these sparks which show that men and women have decided to let themselves be changed right to the core of their being, Dr Potter said. "Man has to find himself again to be able to give himself; he must find himself in his Lord to be able to give himself to others," he declared.

# EPS

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AACC/WCC CONSULTATION VIEWS SUPPORT  
OF CHURCHES IN LIBERATION STRUGGLE

Kitwe, Zambia (EPS) - A strongly worded statement issued by the Joint AACC/PCR-WCC Consultation on Liberation of Southern Africa calls on the liberation movements to close their ranks against "any imperialist manoeuvres" to sabotage their legitimate struggles and on Christians to "recognize that the liberation struggle is a Christian struggle".

The statement urged the church "to become totally involved with the poor, the oppressed, the exploited", but to do this the church "must be changed from an instrument of oppression into an instrument of liberation".

The consultation, which brought together representatives of the All Africa Conference of Churches and the World Council of Churches Programme to Combat Racism, was held November 25-30 at the Mindolo Ecumenical Foundation here to discuss a common strategy for the churches continuing involvement in the liberation struggle of the people of Namibia, Zimbabwe and South Africa.

Representatives of both organizations agreed that "fear of the consequences of speaking out against injustice or on behalf of the oppressed is the major obstacle which prevents the churches' participation in the freedom struggle", but acknowledged that "among the guerrillas, in the political parties, in the shanty towns, in the university, among the peasants - wherever the revolutionary ferment is at work - there are Christians, Catholics and Protestants alike, working shoulder to shoulder with other men. They are found in jail, among the tortured and murdered, with the persecuted and exiled."

There should be no feeling of rivalry when the church regards the liberation movements the statement warned and recommended that church leaders engage in effective dialogue with the leaders and members of the liberation groups. The statement called on the churches especially in Southern Africa to take practical steps to help those in the liberation struggle, the freedom fighters, political prisoners, their dependents, the victims and refugees of oppression.

"It is only as the church offers its whole self totally, unselfishly in the struggle for freedom and for dignity that it will be liberated to allow the love of God to bring that reconciliation based on justice for which the whole of humanity is eagerly waiting," the statement declared.

The consultation listed priorities for the churches as they assist the liberation struggle. Chief among these is a research study on the role of multinational corporations which operate both in independent Africa and in South Africa, Namibia and Zimbabwe. The study should be encouraged and supported by the WCC, the AACC, National Christian Councils and other church bodies, universities and other institutions so that an appropriate strategy can be devised to counteract the influence and power of the multinational corporations and advance the African liberation struggle.

The statement urged that church bodies should assist in seeing that the interests of migrant workers from neighbouring states in South Africa are protected. It welcomed campaigns against tourism and white immigration to South Africa. Racist propaganda should be counteracted by wider public education about the growing conflict in Southern Africa.

Lifting up the plight of refugees from Zimbabwe in Angola, Botswana, Mozambique and Zambia and those from Namibia who sought refuge in Zambia, Botswana and Angola, the statement urged the churches to aid and relieve the liberation movements that have this additional problem to face.



The most urgent needs listed in the statement for the people of Zimbabwe, Namibia and South Africa are food, shelter, clothing, health care, education, and financial aid for administration, and documents each need for each country. The statement said that members of the consultation fully endorse the requests from liberation movements for material and financial aid. In a footnote, the statement expresses appreciation for the role played by Zambia and other frontline states in the liberation struggle.

EPS

WORLD-WIDE FAMILY ACTION,  
RESEARCH STUDY LAUNCHED

Geneva (EPS) - An ambitious world-wide programme which seeks to draw on the family unit to bring about social change and improve the quality of life in the community has been launched by the Office of Family Ministries of the World Council of Churches. Preparations for the project have now been completed with the naming of key persons who will draw on 60 "reporting groups" which in turn are involved with close to 200 "participating groups" in 32 countries, said the Rev. Leslie C. Clements, Family Ministries secretary in the WCC Programme Unit on Education and Renewal.

Finishing touches were given the global action and study project in early December by a seven-member coordinating committee, which includes the internationally-known sociologist Dr Angela Molnos, London; Father Aylward Shorter, research director of the Pastoral Institute, Kenya; and Dr Robin Smith of the United Church of Canada.

First authorized by the Central Committee in 1973 on recommendation of the family life consultation held that year in Malta, the programme's aim is "to discover and develop by action/reflection, ways and means of enabling families to utilize change for the improvement of the quality of life for persons, families and societies and to cope with political, economic and social problems and pressures on family life."

Mr Clements explained the double function of the project is to involve families in a sort of group dynamics process by which with their own cultural, intellectual resources they may become motivated and conscientized to be their own agents of social change, while providing a research instrument for the churches that will help reshape ministries through and for families. It is hoped, he said, that thereby the project will contribute to the renewal of congregational life, and stimulate theological and biblical studies on marriage, sexuality and family life.

He stressed that the project is not an academic piece of family research nor an anthropological, sociological or theological study in the classic manner. However, family researchers, anthropologists, sociologists, theologians and academics of all kinds will be involved at some stage.

Families invited to join the participatory groups will see themselves in the mirror of the group's own story, Mr Clements said in outlining the process. Their understanding and analysis of themselves in their situation will be deepened and clarified in discussion among themselves and with resource persons when possible. This will lead them to develop actions to improve their situations, as sociological and theological insights are joined with community action skills, he said.

The global character of the project is reflected in the number of countries in which participatory groups have been formed. They are South Africa, Uganda, Kenya, Zaire, Cameroon, Ivory Coast, Ghana, Egypt, Israel, Canada, the United States, Jamaica, Mexico, Colombia, Uruguay, Chile, Fiji/New Caledonia, India, North Sumatra, South Korea, Philippines, Sri Lanka, Australia, New Zealand, Austria, Malta, Germany (GDR), United Kingdom and the Netherlands.

EPS

ECUMENICAL TAIZE GROUP ISSUES  
"SECOND LETTER TO PEOPLE OF GOD"

Paris (EPS) - Before an interdenominational group of Christian leaders at a special service in Notre Dame Cathedral on December 5, Brother Roger Schutz, prior of the ecumenical Taizé community in France, presented a "Second Letter to the People of God", written by himself and an international team of young adults who spent several weeks in the slums of Calcutta, India, and Chittagong, Bangladesh.

The letter urges Christians to "begin at once to make your own life a parable of sharing, by accomplishing concrete acts whatever the cost. Along this way, in Asia, many poor people, especially, are ahead of you."

Attending the special service were Cardinal François Marty, Roman Catholic Primate of France; Cardinal Franz König of Vienna, president of the Vatican Secretariat for Non-Believers; Bishop Carlo Manziana of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Crema, Italy; Metropolitan Meletios, Greek Orthodox Archbishop of France; President Cornelius A. von Heyl of the Synod of the Evangelical Church in Germany, and a representative of Anglican Archbishop Donald Coggan of Canterbury.

The First Letter to the People of God was released following a gathering of about 40,000 young people from more than 120 countries at Taizé in August 1974.

Reflecting on their experiences in Calcutta and Chittagong, Brother Roger and the young adults said their mornings were spent "in the homes for the dying or for abandoned children, or in the city's slums" with afternoons devoted to reflection about the letter.

Here are excerpts from the letter, dated Calcutta-Chittagong, 1 December 1976:

"In Asia, we have been confirmed in our certainty that the wounds now tearing humanity apart can be healed...As a contribution to this future, the People of God has one possibility all its own: spread across the entire world, it can build up a parable of sharing in the human family. Such a parable will have force enough to propagate itself, shaking even the most immovable systems and creating communion throughout the whole human family."

"The creation with others of a parable of sharing is first and foremost a question of material possessions... In transforming your life, nobody is asking you to opt for stark austerity without any beauty or joy. Share everything you have and freedom will be yours. Resist the urge to consume - the more you buy the more you need. The accumulation of reserves, for yourself or for your children, is the beginning of injustice."

"It is not possible to change living-standards overnight. So we call upon families, Christian communities and Church leaders, to establish a plan covering seven years, enabling them to give up, in successive stages, everything that is not absolutely indispensable, beginning with what is spent on prestige."

"If the Church gives up all that is not absolutely essential, if she resolves to be nothing but a servant of communion and of sharing in the midst of humanity, she will play her part in healing the wounds of the human family. She will make systems of injustice totter, be able to turn back the waves of pessimism and offer us a way out of the present crisis of confidence in man. By the parable of sharing, the Church, in the midst of the divided human family, will be a seed from which will spring a quite different future for all. She will bring a hope which has no end."

JOINT SWISS PROTESTANT-CATHOLIC  
CONSULTATION ON HELSINKI PLANNED

Lucerne (EPS) - The Swiss Catholic Bishops' Conference has decided to join the Swiss Protestant Church Federation in a consultation next February which will study the "contribution of the churches to the future of Europe" with particular reference to provisions on human rights in the Helsinki Declaration. It is planned to bring together fifteen international experts for the purpose of drafting recommendations for the Swiss churches arising from the Helsinki document with regard to disarmament, international cultural exchanges, religious liberty, human rights, and others.

The Conference also noted with concern the "flagrant violations of human rights in Argentina, Ecuador, Brazil on one hand and in different eastern countries on the other." The Swiss bishops viewed recent events in Rhodesia-Zimbabwe and protested against the mistreatment of bishops, priests and laymen. It asked all Christians to "remember unceasingly in prayer" all those suffering persecution.

EPS

CICARWS TO RAISE \$250,000  
FOR TURKISH QUAKE VICTIMS

Geneva (EPS) - The Commission on Inter-Church Aid, Refugee and World Service (CICARWS) of the World Council of Churches has appealed for US\$250,000 for Turkish earthquake victims. In announcing the appeal, CICARWS Executive Director Muriel S. Webb said she expected requests for \$50,000 for use during the winter. She estimated on the basis of previous experience that the churches may be asked for \$200,000 for the rehabilitation phase.

Reports so far from church aid agencies list an allocation of \$9,700 from the Anglican Church in Canada; \$18,000 for the purchase of landrovers from Christian Aid in the United Kingdom, which also sent 1,500 blankets; children's clothing, winter tents and blankets, worth about \$86,000 from Das Diakonische Werk in Germany; propane ovens and gas valued \$41,000 via the German Government; and \$41,000 from the Swiss Hilfswerk (HEKS) as well as 2,000 blankets. Norwegian Church Relief has furnished eight landrovers.

Current needs seem to have been met, with the exception of 4,000 arctic tents, Mrs Webb said. The Turkish Ministry of Reconstruction and Rehabilitation forecasts a building programme for houses, schools and other institutions, but it is understood that work cannot possibly start until the spring of 1977.

News reports from the stricken area in eastern Turkey now give the number of dead as 5,291 and that of injured as about 5,000.

EPS

POTTER TO KEYNOTE FIRST ASSEMBLY  
OF UNITING CHURCH IN AUSTRALIA

Sydney (EPS) - Dr Philip A. Potter, general secretary of the World Council of Churches, will be the keynote speaker at one of the sessions during the inaugural national Assembly of the Uniting Church in Australia which is planned for June 22-24, 1977 in Sydney.

The overall framework of preparations for the setting up of the Uniting Church which will bring together the Methodists, Congregationalists and Presbyterians into one church has been completed. The new church will have around 200,000 members and 2,400 ordained ministers. Its life and work will be based in up to 1,000 parishes (some of which will have as many as 10 congregations), 54 presbyteries, six synods and one national assembly.

FIVE NEW EXECUTIVES TO JOIN  
WCC STAFF IN GENEVA

Geneva (EPS) - The officers of the World Council of Churches have named five new executives to staff positions in Geneva, it was announced here. The appointments will bring the number of executives to 110 in the WCC's 25 programme areas.

Dr Ulrich Becker, professor of theology and Christian education at the Hannover College of Education in the Federal Republic of Germany, is the new director of the Department of Education, succeeding the Rev. William Kennedy, of the Presbyterian Church in the USA who has returned to Atlanta. Dr Becker has been with the Hannover College of Education since 1961 first as a lecturer and since 1964 as professor. He received his doctorate in 1959 in Erlangen. He is expected to assume his duties in Geneva on March 1.

The Rev. John Bluck, Anglican priest and editor of the "New Citizen", an ecumenical newspaper published by the Methodist Church in New Zealand, will succeed Stephen Whittle as editor of "One World". Mr Whittle is returning to England to become director of religious programming for the British Broadcasting Corporation in Manchester. Mr Bluck started his journalistic career side by side with theological studies in New Zealand and in the United States.

Appointed editor of the Ecumenical Press Service (EPS) is Robin E. Gurney, who has been for the past four years press and information officer of the Methodist Church in the United Kingdom. He succeeds Frances Smith, EPS editor since 1966, who has been appointed to the information office of the Board of Global Ministries of the United Methodist Church in New York. Mr Gurney has been press officer of the United Nations Association in London, serving at the same time as editor of the association's publication "New World", and has edited a number of publications for trade and industrial associations. He looks back on ten years as a Salvation Army officer, for five of which he served in Argentina.

The newly created position of comptroller will be assumed by Peter Bibus of Berne, Switzerland, who has served in similar capacities for international enterprises in Geneva. Nikolay Zabolotsky, lecturer at the Theological Academy of Leningrad, will bring the number of Orthodox staff members to five. He will become the study secretary of the Unit for Justice and Service. Mr Zabolotsky was a delegate of the Russian Orthodox Church to the Fifth Assembly of the World Council in Nairobi.

EPS

MISSIONS CONFERENCE TO JOIN  
BRITISH COUNCIL OF CHURCHES

London (EPS) - Two of the main ecumenical organizations in Britain, the British Council of Churches (BCC) and the Conference of British Missionary Societies (CBMS), have decided to merge. Plans for the integration were approved at a recent meeting of the British Council. The BCC, a fellowship of 22 Anglican, Protestant and Orthodox member churches, two associated members and three associated ecumenical bodies in Great Britain and Ireland was founded in 1942. The CBMS was founded in 1912 and currently has 44 bodies related to it, either missionary societies or overseas councils of churches and organizations.

Under terms of a plan worked out by a 15-member BCC-CBMS Integration Group, the work of the CBMS will continue as a fifth division of the BCC. The BCC has at present four divisions - ecumenical affairs, community affairs, international affairs and Christian aid. The new unit will be known as the Division of World Mission. It is expected that as a result of the integration the concerns of world mission and world evangelization will become major items on the agenda of the British Council of Churches.

EPS

ECONOMIC CONCERNS DOMINATE  
NUCLEAR HEARINGS IN UK

London (EPS) - A panel of nine eminent British experts on economic and technological policy, chaired by Bishop Hugh Montefiore, held a public hearing December 13-14 on nuclear energy in the United Kingdom at the request of the British Council of Churches. Although concentrating on the Commercial Fast Reactor prototype (CFR1), the hearing covered a wide range of questions relating to the economic, social and technological feasibility and security of nuclear energy. More than 30 expert witnesses were questioned. These included Tony Benn, Minister of State for Energy, Sir John Hill, chairman of the UK Atomic Energy Authority, and Dr C.W. Blumfield, director of the Dounreay experimental establishment where the experimental prototype of the first fast reactor has been in operation for more than five years.

The economic concerns dominated the discussion. The uncertain prospects of the British economy, the length of time involved in the design and construction of the CFR1, estimated at ten years, meant that there was no immediate urgency to invest the more than £700 million needed for the CFR1. Some experts strongly argued that the UK should not give up its technological lead. Others held that the UK was too poor to undertake the further large development cost and should wait for the results in other countries.

There was surprisingly little discussion on the pros and cons of reprocessing the irradiated nuclear fuel. Most seemed to feel that it would be all right for the UK to engage in reprocessing given the social stability here. Tony Benn said that it was difficult for citizens and politicians to assess, but also said that that the nuclear option must be maintained.

Those opposing the nuclear option pointed to the possibilities of alternatives which were feasible and to conservation which made the continued dependence on highly centralized energy system unnecessary. Two who defended this thesis were Dr Peter Chapman, director of the energy research group of the Open University and Dr Walter Patterson of the Friends of the Earth. Bishop Montefiore said that the purpose of the hearing had not been to reach a verdict but that the results of the discussion and the hearing would be communicated to the British Council of Churches which would then have to make up its own mind.

EPS

MOZAMBIQUE GOVERNMENT GRANTS  
CHARTER TO BIBLE SOCIETY

Maputo (EPS) - The Government of Mozambique has granted a charter to the reorganized Bible Society, according to "O Boletim da Republica". Prior to independence the Bible Society was not legally recognized and was permitted to function as The Bible House, in the name of the general secretary. The new directors of the Bible Society of Mozambique, Limited, are the Anglican Bishop Dinis Salomao Sengulane, the Rev. Isac David Mahlalela, the General Secretary of the Christian Council of Mozambique, and the Rev. Amosse Baltasar Zita, a Presbyterian minister and the staff assistant at the Bible Society.

The supply of bibles and testaments is nearly exhausted, and the Bible Society of Mozambique is now seeking permission to print or import Bibles and New Testaments. A definitive reply has not been forthcoming from the Book Institute, the government agency which establishes priorities for all published materials in Mozambique. Paper is very scarce, and the Ministry of Education has been given top priority for the publication of textbooks and school manuals.

Another obstacle raised by the Book Institute is that the Casa da Biblia had given authorization, during the period of the armed struggle, to a South African organization to print 200,000 copies of the New Testament for distribution to the Portuguese Army in Mozambique and Angola. Nevertheless, it is hoped that permission will eventually be granted for the importation or printing of a new edition of the Bible.

EPS



NAMIBIAN BISHOP THREATENS TO  
CLOSE ALL-WHITE SCHOOLS

Windhoek (EPS) - Roman Catholic Bishop Rudolf Koppmann has issued an ultimatum that the all-white schools of the church will be closed unless the government revokes racial separation rules in the church-run schools and hospitals.

The German-language "Allgemeine Zeitung" in Windhoek reported a statement by the Bishop that the Roman Catholic Church is no longer prepared to yield "to pressure from above" in order to make its institutions available to "one racially preferred group" alone.

Applications by the church since September have been ignored by the authorities. In late October Bishop Koppmann was informed by the Government's Education Department that integration of students depends on appropriate legislation. Bishop Koppmann has threatened to close the "all-white Catholic schools" should applications for integrating them be refused or ignored.

EPS

MATERIALIST BIBLE READING  
CONSULTATION HELD

Cartigny (EPS) - While "materialist Bible reading" does not justify any particular political practice, it requires a commitment to the transformation of society with accent on the class struggle, an international consultation has concluded.

The consultation defined "materialist Bible reading" as an elaboration of the attempt to read the Bible texts in terms of their "Sitz im Leben" (life context), an approach which is widely used in contemporary biblical theology. It takes into account not only the religious-philosophical aspects but also the socio-political-economic background of the texts. Materialist Bible reading is a comparatively recent movement in Bible studies. It seeks to open the texts to plurality of meanings in order to prevent them from being locked into one interpretation only.

The consultation, sponsored by the Europe office of the World Student Christian Federation and the Ecumenical Association of Academies and Laity Centres in Europe, was attended by representatives of study groups from Portugal, Italy, Scandinavia, England, Germany (FRG), and Holland. Featured as resource persons were Sergio Rostagno of the Waldensian Theological Faculty in Rome; Fernando Belo, theological lecturer in Portugal; Michel Clévenot, author of "Materialist Approach to the Bible", Paris, and Georges Casalis of the Protestant Theological Faculty in Paris. Purpose of the meeting, held under the title "Approach to Materialist Bible Reading", was to assess the importance and the usefulness of this subject for the work of the Student Christian movements and in the work of the academies.

EPS

CC MEMBER IS FIRST PROTESTANT  
ELECTED TO OFFICE IN PORTUGAL

Figueira da Foz (EPS) - The Rev. José Manuel Leite, Presbyterian minister and member of the World Council of Churches Central Committee, became the first Protestant ever elected to office in Portugal. Mr Leite was chosen by the voters of Figueira da Foz as their new mayor in Sunday's (December 12) elections.

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